Book reviews

Pathology of Tumours of the Oral Tissues
2nd ed. By R. B. Lucas. (Pp. x + 386; 123 figures. £7.00.) London: Churchill Livingstone. 1972.

I must start this review by 'declaring an interest' as I had the pleasure of reading both editions in manuscript; however, as the author says in the preface, the views expressed are not necessarily mine, so it may be counted fair for me to review this book.

When the first edition appeared seven years ago it was widely welcomed as an authoritative account of the subject. This second edition is by no means a reprinting, for there is evidence throughout of thorough revision and updating in the light of advances in the intervening years.

The content is wider than the title implies, because in addition to discussions on tumours, there are chapters on leukoplakia and white lesions of the oral mucosa, cysts of the oral tissues, fibrous dysplasia of bone and ossifying fibroma, cherubism, and Paget's disease of bone. Also, there is an introductory chapter on the embryology and histology of the oral tissues. These chapters add greatly to the usefulness of the book. Most tumours and tumour-like conditions likely to be encountered in the mouth and jaws are mentioned here, the longer discussions being devoted to those lesions that are peculiar to the region, and those that are relatively common in the mouth even if they occur in other regions as well. Reference is made to the principal clinical and radiographic features and the illustrations include many clinical radiographs and photographs of operation specimens. The photomicrographs are excellent; they provide a most helpful mixture of low-power views to give the general distribution of the tissue components, and high-power views in which one really can see the important cellular detail.

In the chapter on nomenclature and classification of oral tumours, the author states, 'It is clear that much work remains to be done on the classification of odontogenic tumours, and that new schemes will appear, for some of the lesions concerned are of infrequent occurrence and their life history is not fully known at present.'

This is indeed one of the major problems, and coupled with this is the problem of variations in terminology. For example, the author uses the term 'odonto-ameloblastoma' but the description and illustrations of the lesion appear significantly different from those given in the recent WHO publication on the histological classification of odontogenic tumours.

Any discussion of odontogenic tumours is likely to run into difficulties when the 'cementoma' group is reached, because there is such a variety of these lesions and they are so little understood. However, one member of the group (the 'true cementoma' or 'benign cementoblastoma') is an easily recognizable and very distinctive entity. It is a pity that the author refers to this in the text, but describes the lesion simply as a 'cementoma' in the captions to the illustrations: Fig. 40 doubtfully shows a typical benign cementoblastoma. Also, I suggest that the 'ossifying fibromas' illustrated in Figs. 118-120 belong to the cementoma group, and are not true examples of ossifying fibroma.

However, these are differences of opinion in an area that is admittedly controversial. Professor Lucas has produced a second edition that is even better than the first. Anyone who has to deal with the histopathology of tumours and tumour-like conditions of the oral tissues will find this book invaluable, for it contains a balanced account based on long experience, excellent pictures, and lists of references that include many papers published as recently as 1970 (and even a few published in 1971).

IVOR R. H. KRAMER

Color Atlas of Oral Pathology. 3rd edn. By R. A. Colby, D. A. Kerr, and H. B. G. Robinson. (Pp. xiv + 207; 485 illustrations. £9.50.) Philadelphia and Toronto: J. B. Lippincott Co., Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1971.

This attractive atlas, now in its third edition, is made up of double-column pages: one column is occupied by three illustrations, and the other column contains a brief text. The illustrations include clinical photographs, photomicrographs, and radiographs: there are about 500, and all except the radiographs are in colour. There is also an introductory section on the histology and embryology of the oral region, and the book ends with an extensive bibliography (31 well filled pages) and an adequate index.

In comparison with the previous edition the text has now been set in a much more attractive typeface. About a dozen of the illustrations have been changed, either to give a better picture, or to make way for a limited amount of new material.

Almost all of the clinical photographs are very good. There is some variation in technical quality, but the cases shown are typical. The photomicrographs are not all as sharp as they should be, and some of the sections look very thick, but the magnifications are particularly well chosen to display the essential features of the lesions.

It is possible to criticize some of the illustrations, and parts of the text. For example, the 'odontogenic fibroma' looks more like a normal dental papilla, the section of a 'dentigerous cyst' clearly shows a keratocyst, and the note on the treatment of Vincent's infection makes no mention of metronidazole. However, within the limits imposed by the brevity of the text and the small number of illustrations relating to each condition, the authors have made a good summary. The book is stated to be intended mainly for general practitioners, but it will also be useful to students for revision purposes.

IVOR R. H. KRAMER

Atlas of the Ultrastructure of Diseased Human Muscle. By W. G. P. Mair and F. M. S. Tomé. (Pp. vii + 249; illustrated. £4.50.) Edinburgh and London: Longman Group Ltd. 1972.

This collection of electron microscopic photographs illustrates the great variety of morphological changes which can be found in diseased human muscle. It seems that few, if any, of the abnormalities of the structure of muscle cells which can be seen with the electron microscope are specific for one or another disease entity and all the diagnoses accompanying the pictures are clinical ones. Electron microscopy has certainly not ousted the light microscopy of paraffin sections of a muscle biopsy for diagnostic purposes. This book does not seem to have been designed as a useful aid to diagnosis. There is no discussion of biopsy methods or of techniques of fixation and preparation, so important for the avoidance of artefact. The photographs are, on the whole, of good quality in spite of the loss of detail which is inevitable with reproduction. One could quarrel with some minor points such as swollen mitochondria and increased spaces between myofibrils (plate 70) being described as

abnormal whereas they are probably artefactual. The appearance of an innervated motor end-plate in 'denervated' muscle (plate 65) is puzzling. The bibliography is useful and includes references to work on experimental animal as well as human muscle. Although this book will not help the reader to understand the significance of the abnormalities illustrated and makes no attempt to explain their pathogenesis it should be of interest to those involved in the study of muscle.

L. W. DUCHEN

Experimentelle Lungenfibrose als immunologische Spätreaktion By Konrad Morgenroth. (Pp. 59; 39 figures, DM 28.) Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1972.

The monograph deals with experimental pulmonary fibrosis as a delayed immunological reaction. It is written in German, apart from an abstract, approximately one page in length, in English.

The author has injected guinea pigs with Freund's adjuvant to produce interstitial pneumonia and subsequent fibrosis. The main sections in the monograph deal with Dr Morgenroth's findings with the naked eye, light and electron microscopy, autoradiography, and serum electrophoresis. The author suggests that the acute reaction in the lung is a response to antigenic agents and that the subsequent fibrosis is due to auto-antibodies. This hypothesis correlates well with the finding by other authorities that, in the human, there is a high prevalence of non-organic-specific auto-antibodies in patients with fibrosing alveolitis in whom the lungs only are involved, and also in patients with fibrosing alveolitis and coexisting chronic liver disease.

The book is printed on high quality paper and the illustrations are uniformly excellent. There is a comprehensive list of references. However, the text is somewhat limited, amounting only to some 25 pages, and deals primarily with methodology, leaving little space to discuss the inferences and conclusions drawn from the studies.

Even making due allowance for the rather ludicrous rate of exchange between Sterling and the Deutschmark, a book of 59 pages possessing soft covers is likely to have a limited appeal at a price of approximately £3.40p.

A. J. SALSURBY

Septic Shock in Man Edited by S. G. Hershey, Louis R. M. Del Guercio, and Rita McConn. (Pp. xxi + 313; illustrated. £4.75.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone.

This book contains the papers given at a symposium held in 1968. Despite the delay in its production which is extraordinarily long, this collection of papers by North American authors and their discussion should prove very useful to the wide range of pathologists and clinicians who have to deal with septic shock. Septic shock is being diagnosed more frequently. Unlike many discussions of this subject which have concentrated on the effects of bacterial lipopolysaccharide in animals, here the authors are mostly concerned with the problems of the affected patients and highlight the differences between clinical and laboratory experience.

H. B. STONER

Sudden and Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (Cot Deaths) Edited by Francis E. Camps, and R. G. Carpentier. Report of the Proceedings of the Sir Samuel Bedson Symposium. (Pp. 144; illustrated. £2.00). Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1972.

This book records a symposium attended by 36 people in Cambridge in 1970, brought together by the late Francis Camps (an Elizabethan buccaneer if ever there was one!) who had the subject of cot deaths at his masthead for many years. They took a critical look at the present knowledge related to 'cot deaths'.

This book contains little new data but is highly recommended for its well edited discussion on topics such as immunity to cow's milk, virus infections, and lethal immune responses, enabling the general pathologist to put some of the theories of 'the causes' of cot death into perspective.

J. L. EMERY

Pathophysiology: Altered Regulatory Mechanisms in Disease Edited by Edward D. Frohlich. (Pp. xxvii + 795; illustrated. £10.50.) Philadelphia, Toronto J. B. Lippincott Co. Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1972.

This many-author book reflects concern for the 'whys' and 'hows' of disease, with emphasis on understanding functional interrelations. The authors appear of

high repute and well chosen. The main sections are cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal, endocrine-metabolic, gastro-intestinal, haematological, neuromuscular, and immunological, each with appendices of critically annotated reference books and articles and outlines of actual functional tests.

Each chapter is by a single author, and most include 1970 and sometimes 1971 references. Each expert reader will find his own subject too short, but this book appears to be a good modern source of the recent functional approach to the understanding of disease. One would hope that much will help in the teaching of the laboratory sciences to both undergraduates and postgraduates, and it can be commended not only to the teacher, but to any active clinician and laboratory workers (in particular, the clinical biochemist).

H. G. MORGAN

Clinical Endocrinology Edited by Stuart Mason and Maurice Lessells. Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1972. (Pp. vi + 125; illustrated. £8.00 p.a. £2.25 single copy.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications.

Sir Thomas Brown, with a sigh, wished to reduce learning to 'a few and sold authors'. The general idea is sound. Second-rank journals would die like flies if publications ceased to confer selective advantage—before the job selection committee!

Not an auspicious way to welcome a new journal. But if there has to be new journals, let them be like this one, elegantly, meticulously produced and reflecting the real need of professionals in a rapidly developing branch of science.

M. SANDLER

Commission on World Standards

The next general meeting of the Commission on World Standards will be held in Munich during the Congress of the World Association of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Societies on Thursday September 1972 at 9.00 am.