For example, no doctor faced with the management of a patient with acute leukaemia would end up knowing what to do if he consulted this book. Details of treatment are sketchy, and there are virtually no references to recent important work which he could consult. Similarly in the section on Hodgkin's disease, much is made of single agent treatment which is now virtually a thing of the past, but the MOPP protocol is only mentioned in passing and no reference to it is given. The section on solid tumours is rather better than that on leukaemia and lymphoma, but again any clinician referring to it would be hard put to end up knowing what to do about some of the tumours which are described.

In contrast, Greenwald's book on 'Cancer chemotherapy' is an excellent short description of the state of the art at present. It is really quite remarkable for the amount of information which it contains and the bibliography is extensive and up to date. The physician consulting this book should have no difficulty in obtaining enough information adequately to manage most malignancies with chemotherapy. It is probably the best short book on the subject for the occasional chemotherapist, and is highly recommended.

T. J. MCELWAIN

Viral Hepatitis Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 512. (Pp. 52. 40p.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1973. Obtainable in the U.K. from HM Stationery Office, London.

This report of a WHO scientific group provides a general review of recent progress in hepatitis research within the compass of only 50 pages. The style is clear if sometimes didactic and the views expressed are middle of the road.

Most of the report is concerned with serum hepatitis and Australia antigen. The clinical section, though brief, is well balanced but the description of technical methods is too superficial to be of practical use. The model code of laboratory practice is sensible but it is surprising to see no mention of safety cabinets for handling high-risk specimens. The description of hepatitis in relation to blood transfusion and renal dialysis units is elementary but provides a good introduction to the problems. On the other hand the list of suggestions for further

research is prosaic and already somewhat dated.

Like most of the series, this Technical Report can be highly recommended as an initial foundation for further reading, but it is too limited to satisfy the need of the practising clinical pathologist for a *vade mecum* in this rapidly moving field.

YVONNE COSSART

Glossary of Haematological and Serological Terms By P. Samson. (Pp. 118; 3 figures; 10 tables. £1.73.) London: Butterworth Group. 1972.

The aim of this book is to provide a glossary of medical laboratory terms for newcomers to the profession, students, and ONC candidates. The author believes that there is a need for a quick source of reference, 'more detailed than a dictionary', in this field.

The definitions vary in length from one line to more than four pages, and their quality varies over a similar range. Some basic terms are inadequately defined. Target cells are described, but not their association with iron-deficiency anaemia. More serious failings include an inaccurate definition of pernicious anaemia, 'caused by lack of intrinsic factor or vitamin B₁₂'. Intrinsic factor, on the other hand, is necessary for the binding of extrinsic factors (vitamin B₁₂ and folic acid) ... and its passage from the small intestine to the blood stream and thence to the liver'. Bilirubin, a 'disintegration' product of haemoglobin, is metabolized in a somewhat bizarre fashion, with no mention of glucuronide conjugation in the liver.

A few basic terms such as antigen and antibody have been omitted, with some other rather strange inclusions. 'Baghdad spring anaemia', for those interested, is an allergic haemolytic anaemia confined to the Middle East!

At a price of £1.73, and considering the wealth of good haematology texts available, I cannot see this book as a useful addition.

C. S. SIEFF

The Management of Musculo-Skeletal Problems in the Haemophilias By Robert B. Duthie, James M. Matthews, Charles R. Rizza, and William M. Steel. Foreword by Rosemary Biggs. (Pp. xiii + 179; illustrated. £5.00.) Oxford, London,

Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1972.

This monograph is excellent and beautifully produced. It is based on experience gained by the authors at the Nuffield Orthopaedic and Oxford Haemophilia Centre. As it is the first comprehensive review on this subject since the treatment of joint and muscle haemorrhage with factor concentrates became a feasible proposition, it provides a welcome bridge between haematologist and orthopaedic surgeon. After an introduction to blood coagulation and a review of haemophilia in general, each major aspect of musculo-skeletal haemorrhage is analysed with reference to incidence, pathology, clinical features, and management. The final chapter on reconstructive surgery illustrates not only the advances which have been achieved by the Oxford team but some of the appalling deformities encountered. Many of these, one hopes, will in the future be prevented by prompt treatment. Let us hope, also, that sufficient therapeutic material will be available to meet the need and that the cost of this will not be too prohibitive.

KATHRINE M. DORMAN

Basic Immunogenetics By H. Hugh Fudenberg, J. R. L. Pink, Daniel P. Stites, and An-Chuan Wang. (Pp. vii + 214; illustrated. £2.20.) New York, London, Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1973.

The authors have selected inherited human differences, the genetic polymorphisms, which they consider to be of particular importance. The choice of topics reflects the authors' own research interests. The subjects covered are immunoglobulin structure and evolution, the genetics of the immunoglobulin molecules, antibody variability, the cellular and genetic aspects of the immune response and the immunogenetics of the human blood groups. This is quite a heavy meal in 214 pages and multiple authorship has led to a variability in the digestibility of the text. On the credit side, the figures are commendable, being clear and well annotated. The chapters dealing with the immunoglobulins are particularly successful and it is useful to have all the current information coordinated. It would appear that, although the conclusion that only constant and variable regions of the molecule coded for

by the same chromosome can be associated in a single immunoglobulin polypeptide chain must stand, exactly how the constant and variable regions are fused together is still an unsolved problem. The enthusiasm of the authors is made clear by their many suggestions for future activities. In seeking to keep the book a conveniently small size, the references are highly selective, which tends to lead to unjustifiable omissions; for example, the source of an almost verbatim quotation which appeared in 12 lines of the text, from the summary of a paper which appeared in the *Lancet*, was not cited in the references. Nevertheless, this book can be recommended to anyone who wants to know more about the immunoglobulin molecule and is prepared to grapple with a text which is sometimes quite difficult.

SYLVIA D. LAWLER

Automated Immuno-Precipitin Reactions: New Methods, Techniques and Evaluations (Pp. x + 70; illustrated. £1.00) Basingstoke: Technicon Instruments Company Ltd. 1972.

This small volume represents a series of papers presented at a colloquium on automated immuno-precipitin reactions at the University of Louvain in Belgium and at the Technicon International Congress in New York, 1972. Fifteen papers were presented, with subjects ranging from the estimation of fibrinogen and its dimer in hypercoagulable states, the analysis of low-density lipoproteins to the automated analyses of alpha-antitrypsin, immunoglobulins, and transferrin. The underlying common factor was the utilization of the Technicon automated nephelometric immunoassay procedures using one or more fluoronephelometers in sequential continuous-flow analyses. The standard of the presentations is very high, and what is particularly valuable is the informed discussion by participants, many of whom are well known either in the field of protein chemistry or in the field of automation of clinical chemical procedures. Considerable attention was paid to the problems of standardization and interpretation of the data. Altogether this is a very stimulating monograph in a rapidly developing field of automated chemistry.

M. G. RINSLER

Modern Trends in Forensic Medicine Third series. Edited by A. Keith Mant.

(Pp. ix + 301; illustrated. £7.00.) London: Butterworth Group. 1973.

The first series of *Modern Trends in Forensic Medicine* were edited by Professor Keith Simpson and the influence on the new series of the Guy's Hospital School of Forensic Medicine is happily still very obvious.

This series contains 10 articles, most of which cover topics that are of everyday importance and interest to practising forensic pathologists. Some, including that on the investigation of road deaths and that about the problem of sudden, unexpected death in childhood, will be of great interest to hospital morbid anatomists. If I was asked to give a prize to the best contribution to this book, I think it would go to Dr Lyons of New York University for the latter chapter, which gives an admirable and up-to-date rundown on the present state of knowledge and includes a critique of almost every theory yet put forward to account for sudden deaths of infants, and underlines our complete ignorance of the truth of the matter. Runner up for a first prize would be difficult to choose from so many excellent chapters. A likely nomination is that by Dr Peter Pullar, who contributes a painstaking review of the histopathology of wounds, which leaves one with the feeling that although the author says that timing wounds by histochemistry is straightforward, the next time the question is really important one will send the tissue, including of course, deep frozen cryostat sections, to his laboratory and plead with him to examine it.

The latest on the American firearm scene, appropriately from Dallas, Texas, will intrigue all pathologists with a little of the small boy left in their mentality. Although to the English ear the 'Blondean slug' and the 'super vel frangible iron bullet' sound like some ludicrous latter-day Alice Through the Looking Glass objects, the chapter is deadly serious, and with increasing internationalization of society, one can never tell when one may see, for example, a shot-gun wound coloured fluorescent orange by plastic interstitial material from modern buck-shot ammunition. On a philosophical plane, it makes one wonder how much evil the firearms industry is responsible for.

Many pathologists may feel that the book is marred by a very long contribution on the controversial report of a Home Office Committee on Death

Certification and Coroners (Broderick), longer, for example, than the chapter on modern toxicology. It mixes a summary of the report with the author's personal views that would have been more appropriate to the forum of a current journal or meeting than to an otherwise authoritative book such as this.

A. C. HUNT

Postgraduate Obstetrical and Gynaecological Pathology Edited by H. Fox and F. A. Langley. (Pp. xiv + 590; illustrated. £12.00.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1973.

This book is based on a course of lectures given to postgraduate trainees in both pathology and obstetrics and gynaecology. Twenty-one different authors have contributed, but the editors, who have written four chapters each, have achieved a uniform style and standard throughout. A good balance is attained between factual description, review of the literature, and personal opinion.

The book begins with a clear account of the embryological development of the genital tract and this is followed logically by chapters on developmental and chromosomal abnormalities. The pathology of each region is then considered in turn, always against a background of the relevant anatomy and physiology. However, in contrast to some books with a similar title, only half the book is concerned with gynaecological topics. The remainder deals with obstetrics and includes haematological and renal disorders of pregnancy, the physiology and pathology of the placenta, and unusually, but of obvious relevance, four chapters on the pathology of the fetus and newborn.

The full treatment of ovarian tumours with a useful classification and consideration of histogenesis in relation to normal gonad development should help to resolve much confusion. The simple approach to the vexed question of chronic vulval dystrophy seems sensible but I expect the old nomenclature will die hard. The account of intraepithelial cervical carcinoma and related lesions is a concise summary of present knowledge but, as in several other chapters, more photomicrographs of improved quality would have been helpful. The section on cytology contains much practical advice which I wish could be read by all who take cervical smears. Obstetricians will find the chapter on neonatal cerebral damage depressing reading.