

the papers deal with fundamental physics of a technique while others are purely clinical. The depth in which they discuss the technique is variable, making it difficult to decide what audience the book is intended to interest. The specialist in any one of the fields covered would find the appropriate papers rather out of date and relatively superficial. On the other hand, the general oncologist and those on the fringe of oncology would find the book interesting, giving a rather broad view of some of the more esoteric techniques. At £17.90 few individuals would consider the volume for a permanent place on the bookshelf. However, it will find a valuable place in libraries for those persons who wish to have a brief survey of the more novel methods of tackling cancer detection.

V. R. MCCREADY

Histology—a Text and Atlas. By Johannes A. G. Rhodin. (Pp. x + 803; illustrated; £9.00.) London: Oxford University Press. 1974.

Essentially, this is a book on structure, ultrastructure, and function of mammalian tissues, crammed with excellent black-and-white illustrations aimed at bridging the gap between the light and electron microscopes and reflecting Professor Rhodin's obviously extensive teaching experience. Its strength lies in its attempt to teach a rational understanding of histology rather than placing the onus on the student to remember—irrationally—a series of maps; the approach is a d'Arcy Thompson one, based on the premise that, as in atomic bonds, so in biology function is reflected in structure at the molecular level at least. Electron microscopy has helped to demonstrate the structure and elucidate the function of, for example, cell organelles, glomeruli, and muscle; this book goes further—it stimulates, at least in this reviewer's mind, such questions as the possible mechanism by which a polymorph may penetrate the capillary basement membrane during inflammation. It also shifts the problem of differentiation from the speculative to a tangible level.

One should not look a gift horse in the mouth; this book, a labour of love and scholarship, is a treasure trove for students, pathologists, biomedical research workers, and certainly libraries. Its format is excellent and the price modest—I recommend it warmly.

C. I. LEVENE

Immuno-electrophoresis. Theory, Methods, Identifications, Interpretation. Second revised edition of *Primer of Immuno-electrophoresis*. By Pierre C. Arquembourg. (Pp. viii + 104; 151 illustrations; Sw. Fr. 61.) Basel: S. Karger. 1975.

This book deals mainly with the methodology of one particular technique, namely, immuno-electrophoresis, although some other related methods like the cross-over electrophoresis are discussed as well. Unfortunately, the description and discussion are limited and confined to one particular methodology, which by some may not be regarded as ideal. Some of the details appear unnecessarily complicated, and excellent results can be obtained just as well without the use of elaborate procedures. The nomenclature is rather confusing and at times incorrect. In the chapter on macroglobulins, for instance, a statement that macroglobulins are not present in normal serum can be misleading. There is a large number of photographs of immuno-electrophoretic patterns of reasonably good quality, and this probably is the main value of the book. The plates on artefacts encountered in immuno-electrophoresis can be quite helpful for the uninitiated, although 'useful artefacts' is perhaps a somewhat unfortunate term. Some of the clinical interpretations of the immuno-electrophoresis patterns are open to criticism.

J. KOHN

Rapid Virus Diagnosis. Application of Immunofluorescence. By P. S. Gardner and J. McQuillin. (Pp. x + 255; illustrated; £6.00.) London: Butterworths. 1975.

This is the first edition of a new monograph devoted entirely to the rapid diagnosis of virus diseases by immunofluorescence, and its publication is a measure of the technological improvements that have taken place in recent years. It has been written by two acknowledged experts in this particular field of diagnostic virology who, from several years' experience, have encountered, and in many cases overcome, the many pitfalls in immunofluorescent techniques. The object of this monograph is to demonstrate to clinicians the usefulness of the method and at the same time provide laboratory staff with additional technical details. The authors have achieved a nice balance between the two.

Not unnaturally, a great deal of the

book is devoted to the diagnosis of respiratory virus infections because this is the field in which they have had the most experience and where rapid diagnosis could be of greatest benefit to the clinician.

Rapid diagnosis is also essential in rabies and smallpox and, although as the authors indicate, immunofluorescence techniques show great promise, considerable skill and experience are required in the interpretation of the results. The book is clearly written and extremely well illustrated and is strongly recommended for all concerned in the diagnosis of virus diseases; it will assuredly find a place in many laboratories.

J. A. DUDGEON

Notice

Vinyl Chloride and Angiosarcoma of the Liver

There is increasing evidence, mainly from the United States and Europe, to indicate that past occupational exposure to vinyl chloride may result in skin, bone, and liver changes, the most serious of which is angiosarcoma (malignant haemangioendothelioma, Kupffer cell sarcoma) of the liver. Vinyl chloride is the monomer from which the widely used plastic polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is manufactured.

The Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS) is engaged at present, in addition to prospective epidemiological studies of at risk populations, in a retrospective mortality study, the aims of which are to identify cases of angiosarcoma, to study their histological characteristics in detail, and to assess the role of vinyl chloride by obtaining an occupational history of these cases and matching them with appropriate controls.

A Panel of Pathologists (P. P. Anthony, P. J. Scheuer, and H. K. Weinbren) has been set up to review the histological material. Pathologists are asked to notify all cases of angiosarcoma of the liver, including suspected cases which they may have come across at any time, to: The Director of Medical Services and Head of EMAS, Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS), Baynard House, Chepstow Place, London W2.

An approach by EMAS medical staff may then be made requesting details of medical history, post-mortem findings, and the loan of histological material in order to establish a register of cases.