Genetic Aspects of Host-Parasite Relationships (Symposia of the British Society for Parasitology. Volume 14). Edited by Angela E. R. Taylor and R. Muller. (Pp. vii + 110; illustrated; £4.00.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1976.

'Host-parasite relationships' to many denotes immunity in the special sense of the term adopted in biomedical research. This fascinating volume describes something very different. Thus the genetics of resistance by the mosquito vectors of bancroftian filariasis are described in relation to the possibility of release of sterile breeding partners with the aim of vector eradication in restricted environments. The genetics of schistosome and malarial organisms themselves are considered in relation to their capacity for growth in primary or secondary host animals. But perhaps the most interesting paper derives from B. Clarke, who builds up the hypothesis that parasite-host reactions select for polymorphism in the host (and presumably the parasite). As a corollary of this argument, much of the protein polymorphism of vertebrates and, in particular, man could be thought to derive from their long-term evolutionary interaction with parasitic organisms. When immunologists get their various fancy hypotheses in perspective it is to books such as this they will turn.

A. J. S. DAVIES

Tumors of the Kidney, Renal Pelvis, and Ureter (Atlas of Tumor Pathology, Second Series, Fascicle 12). By James L. Bennington and J. Bruce Beckwith. (Pp. 353; illustrated; \$6.50.)

Nearly 20 years have passed since the first Armed Forces Institute of Pathology fascicle on renal tumours was published under the authorship of Drs B. Lucke and H. G. Schlumberger. In accordance with editorial policy, the current fascicle is not a second edition but an entirely new production.

After a short introductory account of the embryogenesis and normal histology of the kidney, renal pelvis, and ureter, the authors proceed to give a comprehensive account of the pathology of the neoplasms, both common and rare, which affect these structures. The work is illustrated by photographs, photomicrographs, and electron micrographs of high quality, supported by an adequate and lucid text, extensive bibliography, and useful index.

Some radiographs, scintiscans, and sonograms are also included; and there are tables and graphs showing age, sex and racial incidence, and survival data in respect of various neoplasms. The illustrations total 267, 33 being in colour.

This is an indispensable monograph for the practising pathologist. It should prove of interest and value to surgeons and radiologists also. At 6.50 US dollars it is excellent value.

N. F. C. GOWING

Autopsy. By James R. Adams, Jr. and Robert D. Mader. (Pp. 196; illustrated; £15.60.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers (UK distributors: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd, London). 1976.

About half the book gives a profusely illustrated account of the clinical history and autopsy findings of a single patient so as to illustrate general postmortem technique. The remainder of the space is devoted to some selected topics, such as 'surgical problems for the prosector', 'transplantations', and 'the camera as a tool'. One of the authors (R. D. Mader) 'was completing his Master of Science degree in photography' but many of the photographs are not very helpful, especially as they are not individually annotated. For instance, it is not clear what the photographs, all black and white, on pages 97, 115, 121, and 130 are supposed to represent. The style is often homely. There are frequent bits of advice, such as, 'be alert'. Fifty-five blocks for microscopy were taken from this rather humdrum illustrative case of carcinoma of the bronchus. Few laboratories can afford this. This book represents a straightforward, but not always successful, attempt to illustrate postmortem technique. It may have some ephemeral value for the young trainee pathologist when he begins autopsy work. It is expensive.

E. A. WRIGHT

Principles of Pathobiology, 2nd Edition. Edited by Mariano F. La Via and Rolla B. Hill, Jr. (Pp. 295; illustrated; £5.00.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1975.

Apart from a short introduction by one of the editors this soft-covered book is composed of six chapters all by different contributors. The subjects are cellular reactions to injury (the longest chapter),

inflammation, host-parasite interactions, immunologic injury, neoplasia, and a final chapter on heredity, differentiation, and development.

The cell, as seen by the electron microscope, is the central character. Straightforward biology is often presented. For instance, four pages are devoted to explaining and illustrating the concepts of exotropy and esotropy with almost no relationship to pathology. One of the illustrations (fig 2-21) shows a scanning electron micrograph (but this is not specified, nor the magnification) of some red cells exhibiting surface membrane esotropy (misspelt estropy) after treatment with primaquine. But it is not clear how, or even if, this is related to human disease or treatment. Eleven lines are devoted to alcoholic hyaline and the electron micrographic appearances are illustrated. However, the conclusion is '... the pathogenesis of alcoholic hyaline is not clear'. In other words 'we still don't know'. Aging is mentioned in three places—page 65 ten lines, page 92 two lines repeating the same information, and page 228 four lines linking the increased incidence of neoplasia with age, age-associated lymphoid atrophy, and the 'decline in general immuno competence'. The words atheroma, thrombosis, embolus, and oedema do not appear in the index; however, infarction does. The index refers to a figure showing the serum findings in acute myocardial infarction but gives no explanation. As explained by the editor, the subject matter is highly selected.

Frequently one finds clinical terms used without definition. Shock syndrome and cardiovascular collapse appear without a word of explanation or definition. Organotropism is defined as a parasite's preference for a tissue (not an organ). But are these terms helpful? The words scirrhous and desmoplastic are used in connection with the large amount of fibrous tissue found in some cases of breast carcinoma but neither term is explained nor appears in the index. Oncogen is the authors' preferred term for an agent that induces tumours, but then one finds the words carcinogen, carcinogenic, and precarcinogen used in figs 6-9 and 6-10.

There is no recognition of SI units which may confuse the new generation of European students.

Most of these criticisms are about terminology, but generally the style is clear and interesting and the profuse