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

black-and-white illustrations are excellent. It is unlikely that this book will find much place in the regular British pre-clinical curriculum and it is too biological for the clinical period. It will be useful to the exceptional student, for elective courses, and for additional reading. Parts of it will make refreshing reading for the postgraduate research worker and pathology teacher.

E. A. WRIGHT

Intestinal Ion Transport. Edited by J. W. L. Robinson. (Pp xiii + 430; illustrated; £12.50.) Lancaster: Medical and Technical Publishing. 1976.

This book constitutes the Proceeding of the 4th Falk International Symposium held at Titisee in May 1975. There were 52 participants. Thirty-five papers were read dealing with ion transport and its relation to the absorption of foodstuffs, such as sugars and aminoacids, and ranging from mammals to tortoise, frog, eel, and fish. Discussions are recorded in full. Most of the work described is too specialized to be of interest to the average clinical chemist, but there is an admirable closing summary by D. S. Parsons, which gives a very good picture of the current situation in this field and will be of interest to anyone concerned with transport mechanisms. From the clinical point of view the most stimulating contribution is by Rask-Madsen, indicating that the rare condition of congenital chloridorrhoea may be due to inversion of a transport mechanism which is inhibited by theophylline and that the latter drug in suitable form may provide effective treatment.

The book is well produced, and editor and publishers are to be congratulated on achieving a publication date within nine months of the symposium.

G. K. MCGOWAN

Greenfield's Neuropathology, 3rd edition. Edited by W. Blackwood and J. A. N. Corsellis. (Pp xiii + 946; illustrated; £37.50.) London: Edward Arnold. 1976.

The publication of a new edition of a familiar and well-tryed text must always arouse mixed feelings—pleasure that it has not passed into limbo but trepidation lest the features that made it popular have been altered beyond recognition. Having recovered from the nearly eight-fold price increase, the reader's first impression

of *Greenfield's Neuropathology* is that it is exactly the same as its predecessors. Admittedly there is a marked improvement in the layout, with two columns of print per page rather than the solid mass of previous editions, but the photographs and text seem the same. It is, therefore, with considerable surprise that one discovers that the book is nearly one-third larger with 946 pages as opposed to 679 in the second edition. The publishers have disguised this increase in bulk by using thinner paper. The editors have been more subtle and have persuaded the eminent group of British neuropathologists who have revised the book to do so with considerable skill.

The foreword concludes with the remark 'The purpose of this book . . . is to help those who wish to be able to recognise the gross and microscopical features of disease of the Central Nervous System'. The first two editions succeeded in this aim and the third edition carries on the tradition unerringly.

W. SCARRATT

Viral Diseases of the Central Nervous System. Edited by L. S. Illis. (Pp xiv + 226; illustrated; £7.50.) London: Bailliere Tindall. 1975.

This book by neurologists, pathologists, and virologists is based on a symposium held in Southampton.

Part one is devoted to the nature, diagnosis, and treatment of Acute and Subacute Encephalitis and provides a very readable summary of the present position. Especially interesting are two attempts, by different approaches, to assess the frequency in the UK of the various viral infections of the CNS. Herpes encephalitis is discussed in depth, and a carefully balanced view of its therapy is given.

A little more space might have been given to postinfectious encephalitis, which accounts for half the notifications (see page 25) but of which the pathogenesis is still unknown.

In Part two the Transmissible and Degenerative Diseases of the Nervous System are considered under the headings of clinical aspects, pathology, and transmission experiments. The diseases known to be transmissible, Kuru and Jacob-Creutzfeldt, are discussed in detail and compared with the animal diseases, scrapie and mink encephalopathy, and with other degenerative diseases, Alz-

heimer, some forms of Parkinsonism and motor neurone disease, for which an infective aetiology has been postulated.

A. H. TOMLINSON

Trace Components of Plasma: Isolation and Clinical Significance. Edited by G. A. Jamieson and T. J. Greenwalt. (Pp xii + 428; illustrated; \$41.95; Dfl. 105.00.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co. 1976.

This is the fifth volume in a series devoted to Progress in Clinical and Biological Research and is the proceedings of the 7th American Red Cross Annual Scientific Symposium held in Washington in May 1975. The speed of publication mirrors the up-to-date nature of each of the articles, which are devoted to discussing trace plasma compounds which, by definition, are proteins not present in amounts greater than 10 mg/100 ml. To the present reviewer, involved in ultra-trace proteins, such concentrations seem vast.

The book is introduced by an excellent article giving an overview of the entire topic and then continues to deal with the recent advances in the complement and coagulation systems, together with a discussion of antiproteases, acute phase proteins, fetal and pregnancy-associated proteins, cell surface markers, and transplantation antigens and hormone binding proteins. Each is presented from a clinical, biological, pathological, and clinical view-point and is concise, clear, and adequately illustrated.

This will be a book of interest to clinical biochemists and haematologists in particular, but also to fundamental biologists and chemists. It has only one real apparent drawback—the seemingly disproportionate cost. What will the price of a book on ultratrace proteins be?

A. M. NEVILLE