quality of production, and in these days of limited budgets I think that few will judge it a priority purchase.

G. SLAVIN

Muir's Textbook of Pathology, 10th edition. Edited by J. R. Anderson. (Pp. xiii + 1046; £13.75.) London: Edward Arnold. 1976.

This latest edition of 'Muir' has grown a little fatter (by 70 pages) and has attractive greenish photographs printed on its soft covers. There are now 15 contributors listed as responsible for chapters but many others are acknowledged in the preface. The chapter headings remain the same and so does most of the text and the illustrations. Many illustrations are slightly enlarged, to good effect, in this edition but some have become rather paler. Not all the changes in the illustrations are improvements. Fig. 1.6 in the 9th edition showed striking gangrene of the third and fourth toes but in the new edition it is replaced by a foot with all the toes dark, thus losing the striking colour difference (are the toes just dirty?). The old Fig. 1.6 now appears as 13.28 in the new edition as a case of thromboangiitis obliterans. Dr Catto's section on hypertrophy has a picture of an uprooted beech tree with hugely hypertrophied roots (pathological lessons can be widely applied?). Generally, the revisions have improved this already excellent book and it is now probably the best undergraduate textbook of pathology; by present-day standards it is not expensive.

E. A. WRIGHT

Scanning Electron Microscopy. Proceedings of the Annual SEM Symposia, 1972-1976. Edited by Om Johari and Robert P. Becker. IIT Research Institute, Chicago, Illinois. 1976.

SEM/1976/I	782 pp	\$47.50 (Set of
SEM/1976/II	708 pp	two)
SEM/1975	816 pp	\$27.00
SEM/1974	1064 pp	\$27.50
SEM/1973	789 pp	\$22.00
SEM/1972	447 pp	\$21.00

(Earlier volumes from 1968 to 1971 are also available.)

These annual volumes chart the recent progress of SEM in biological research. Each paper is accompanied by detailed reviewers' comments with authors' replies. In 1976/I alone the pathologist might find the research papers on pages 1, 31, 85, 121, 217, 225, and 315 of particular

interest, while in the 1973 volume there are 51 papers in a workshop devoted to SEM in pathology.

Specialist topics, however, do not dominate this series. There are general and tutorial papers such as Revel (1975) on the elements of SEM; Lewis and Nemanic (1973) and Bartlett and Burstyn (1975) on critical point drying; Boyde (1976/I) and Humphreys (1975) on biological specimen preparation; and Echlin (1974) on coating techniques. These, along with many others, provide authoritative technical information on the current state of the art, vital for the beginner.

The workshop on the teaching of SEM (1975) is of interest to all who use the technique. There are extensive bibliographies of SEM: the 1976/II biomedical update alone lists 1919 references.

Naturally enough, in so new a discipline, few papers as yet deal with practical diagnostic applications. The SEM may find uses in cervical cytology (p. 315, 1976/II) but is currently subject to sampling limitations, while changes reported in 'normal' breast epithelium in cases of primary breast cancer (p. 1, 1976/II) may have future diagnostic potential. By contrast, in practical forensic science (bibliography, 1976/I) SEM and x-ray analysis are now firmly established. The reviewer awaits with interest the special session on SEM as an aid to diagnosis in the forthcoming 1977 proceedings.

SEM brings a new dimension to every morphological enquiry, including clinical pathology. For anyone interested in biological structure this series makes fascinating reading: for the electron microscopist it is an indispensable reference source.

P. G. TONER

Malignant Melanoma. Clinical and Histological Diagnosis. By Vincent J. McGovern. (Pp. xiv + 178; illustrated; £16.00.) Chichester: John Wiley. 1976.

It is rare that a reviewer can truthfully state that a work is likely to prove valuable to beginner and experienced practitioner alike but this beautifully produced, well written, and copiously illustrated monograph, a credit to author and publisher, merits this opinion. Furthermore, there was need for such a monograph in what is generally acknowledged to be a difficult field in clinical histology.

The reviewer found only a few points of difference with the author. 'Malignant transformation of a purely intradermal naevus or of the intradermal component of a compound naevus has not been recorded' (p. 8) is misleading. Melanoma has been seen *in association with* all types of naevi. Malignant transformation implies the conversion of naevus cells into melanoma cells, a very doubtful event. The nature of 'benign metastasizing blue naevus', an important differential diagnosis of metastatic deposit of melanoma in lymph nodes, is not dealt with in the sketchy section on blue naevus (p. 399). Hints on therapeutics are, quite rightly, presented in the appropriate places but there is no mention at all of the role of radiotherapy, the modality of choice in the management of some phases of Hutchinson's freckle and cancerous melanosis of the conjunctiva. These matters will no doubt be put right in the second edition. One very interesting technique used by the author is the use of reticulin stains in the differentiation of naevi and melanomas.

Vince McGovern, the doyen of Australian surgical pathologists, is nearing retirement, and this work is a fitting crown to a generous, creative medical life. It is an indispensable bench book.

A. LEVEN