tion of tabulated facts, figures, and maps with an extensive bibliography. One can only admire the patience and endurance of the authors who have meticulously sifted through a vast number of published papers to give us the information at our fingertips for day-to-day reference purposes.

This review has been deliberately delayed in order to put the book to work in a blood group reference laboratory. Experience has shown the need to use the book regularly in order to become familiar with its layout. The subject index refers only to the text, which is somewhat misleading, and to find the incidence of the rare red cell antigen, Mg, it is necessary to use the list of contents, whereupon the reader is quickly referred to the incidence of the antigen in three different populations. Attempts to find the incidence of the A_x and P^k antigens were unsuccessful but one is left with the feeling that the information is somewhere to be found in the book. To find the incidence of the R₀ genotype in Negro populations would take a long time and much cross reference.

This is an invaluable compendium of tables which, when everything is in your favour, gives answers in minutes compared with an otherwise daunting search of the literature. It is a necessary companion in any blood group reference or forensic laboratory but will probably be too expensive for more general distribution.

W. J. JENKINS

Colour Atlas and Textbook of Macropathology. 2nd edition. By Walter Sandritter and C. Thomas. Translated and Edited by W. H. Kirsten. (Pp. xiv + 361; 680 figures, including 639 colour photographs, and 14 tables; £28.60.) London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) (Distributors for Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago). 1976.

The authors of this book, first published in German in 1970, have attempted to turn what is basically an atlas into an illustrated textbook by using the titles of diseases for the main headings and incorporating the descriptions of the lesions illustrated into the text. The text has also been extended. This increases the factual content of the book but it has the disadvantage that the descriptions of the figures tend to get lost in the text or at least to have their impact weakened. The effect is increased by the fact that much of the text is in smaller print and written in what the authors themselves call 'a

brief, telegraphic style'. This part of the text is far from easy to read and its omission would probably improve the book. On the other hand, the pictures are of high quality and, with few exceptions, are sharp. The colours are very realistic, and although highlights are occasionally prominent, they have been minimised by careful photographic technique. More distracting, at least to this reviewer, are the highly coloured backgrounds.

A wide range of lesions is illustrated but coverage is noticeably patchy, for example in the central nervous system. Unfortunately, the index is of little value in that none of the page references is correct, all being low by a figure which ranges from 2 for the lesions in the first part of the book to 6 for those towards the end of the book.

This is a costly book and clearly beyond the pockets of undergraduates and trainee pathologists. Nevertheless it is a beautifully produced volume which contains a wealth of visual morbid anatomical information and is well worthy of a place in a good library.

R. C. CURRAN

Histochemistry of the Adenohypophysis By C. Girod. *Handbuch der Histochemie*, Volume VIII. Supplements. Part 4. (Pp. viii + 325; DM 220.) Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1976.

This is a timely monograph on the histochemistry of the adenohypophysis. It will be most helpful for those concerned with the cytophysiology and pathology of the pituitary, for it reviews not only the older literature, with its emphasis upon the classical methods of cytology and cytochemistry, but also takes into account two subsequent trends, the first concerned with the ultrastructure of the cells of the anterior pituitary and the second with their immunohistochemical identification.

This is not to say that this monograph is any substitute for Romeis' superb review in Moellendorff's Handbook, an analysis still unrivalled as the source in this field. Since 1940, however, very many papers have been published on the cytology of the anterior lobe of the pituitary, some first class, but many perhaps of greater aesthetic than scientific value.

This more recent literature Girod has reviewed well. A particular virtue of his book is the careful analysis of methods, for example, in autoradiography and in immunohistochemistry. He also reviews in considerable detail the cytochemical

investigations which supplanted early tinctorial work in the late 1940s. His critical analysis of the functional significance of these cytochemical observations is of value. What, however, is somewhat lacking is any attempt similarly to analyse the applicability of such techniques to the experimental study of endocrine and pathological problems.

It is when one is attempting to quantitate cytological and cytochemical findings that one most rapidly learns the shortcomings of individual techniques. Such quantitative work was pioneered by Russell and Crooke in their analysis of changes seen in the human anterior pituitary in Cushing's disease, and it was taken a stage further when Pearse made comparable analyses in a variety of endocrine diseases.

The experimental application of such techniques seems, however, not to be a major interest of Girod: his approach is essentially anatomical in Woodger's sense, that is, concerned with a single moment in a cell's physiological life.

Perhaps in further editions he could take more account of the pathophysiology of the adenohypophysis and perhaps, also, of the hypothalamus and neurohypophysis too. There are strong anatomical as well as physiological reasons for thinking in terms of a single hypothalamohypophysial system.

J. C. SLOPER

International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria. Bacteriological Code 1976 Revision. Edited by S. P. Lapage, P. H. A. Sneath, E. F. Lessel, V. B. D. Skerman, H. P. R. Seeliger, and W. A. Clark. (Pp. xxxv + 180; \$5.00.) Washington: American Society for Microbiology. 1975.

To achieve order and system in bacteriological nomenclature an internationally accepted code is required. The present version is that approved by the Plenary Session of the First Congress for Bacteriology, Jerusalem, 1973.

After a short chapter on 'General Considerations', the Code is described under 'Principles', 'Rules', and 'Recommendations', the two latter deriving from the former. The scientific names of all taxa are Latin or latinized words and are based on valid publication, legitimacy, and priority of publication. All these aspects are dealt with in detail as are the nomenclatural types of taxa and the appropriate method(s) of their designations. A procedure for amendments is

described. A section on orthography is included.

There is an appendix on 'Conserved and Rejected Names of Bacterial Taxa' and another giving published 'Opinions Relating to the Nomenclature of Bacteria', but Appendix 2 ('Approved Lists of Bacterial Names') and Appendix 6 ('Published Sources for Recommended Minimal Descriptions') have unfortunately been postponed to future editions of the code. Included are the *Statutes of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology* and the *Statutes of the Bacteriology Section of the International Association of Microbiological Societies*.

As this Code is binding from January 1976 onward it is necessarily of interest to bacteriologists in general and to taxonomists in particular.

N. J. RYAN

The Inflammatory and Atresia-inducing Disease of the Liver and Bile Ducts. By A. Perez-Soler. (Pp. x + 245; illustrated; \$30.00.) Basel: S. Karger. 1976.

This book presents a very individual viewpoint on childhood liver disease, postulating that neonatal hepatitis, extrahepatic biliary atresia, and intrahepatic atresia are facets of a single disease complex caused by a virus. Intrahepatic atresia is reasonably seen as an acquired condition rather than a congenital defect. The literature is extensively reviewed, but few of the references are less than five years old. Curiously, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, a common finding in neonatal hepatitis, is dismissed in a few lines. This is not a book for the general reader.

P. J. SCHEUER

An Atlas of Tumours Involving the Central Nervous System. By R. O. Barnard, V. Logue, and P. S. Reaves. (Pp. x + 158; 196 colour illustrations; £16.50.) Baillière Tindall, 1976.

This Atlas presents a clinicopathological study of tumours of the central nervous system. On each left-hand page the clinical history, physical signs, results of investigations, the operative findings, and outcome of a particular case are outlined: on the opposite page the microscopic appearances of the tumour are illustrated. Successive sections deal with gliomas, lymphoreticular tumours, tumours of blood vessels, pituitary and parapituitary growths, chordoma, dermoid and epi-

dermoid cysts, meningeal tumours, schwannoma and neurofibroma, pineal tumours, and metastatic neoplasms. There is a brief synopsis of rare tumours and also short notes on cytological and technical methods. All the illustrations are in colour, but they vary considerably in quality. As Professor Lucien Rubenstein says in his Foreword, this Atlas may appeal to neurosurgeons, junior pathologists, and senior medical students. The practising histopathologist will doubtless rely on more comprehensive works, such as Professor Rubenstein's own *Atlas of Tumours of the Central Nervous System*, published by the AFIP.

N. F. C. GOWING

Selected Topics in Clinical Bacteriology. Edited by J. de Louvois. (Pp. 262; illustrated; £6.50.) London: Baillière Tindall. 1976.

This book contains eight chapters, of which the first is a thoughtful and helpful discussion by R. Freeman of Leeds of infection in intensive care units. In such patients the usual signs may be obscured, and a system of monitoring is proposed, mainly by cultured methods, by which infection may be detected early. A companion to this is the chapter by J. P. Sanford and A. K. Pierce of Dallas, Texas, on the bacteriology and disinfection of inhalation therapy equipment. Much the largest contributions are extensive reviews—of methods of assay of antibacterial drugs by D. S. Reeves and M. J. Bywater, and by D. A. Liegh on the nature, diagnosis, and treatment of *Bacteroides* infections, concluding with 12 pages of references. The remaining chapters are of less or almost no clinical interest, notably that by L. R. Hill on advances in bacterial taxonomy, discussing methods of 'data acquisition' and 'data processing' (preferably computerised) for bacterial identification. G. Colman writes on the classification of viridans streptococci. The microbiology of medicinal products is discussed by G. Sykes, mainly from the point of view of an official formulating standards of quality and seeking to enforce them. W. C. Noble, writing on the skin as a microbial habitat, seems to pose at least as many questions as he answers.

The merit of publishing such a miscellany as this is questionable. The reader cannot be expected to buy a book in which perhaps only a single chapter is of vital interest to him. Worthwhile review articles

of this nature are accepted and even invited by various regular journals to whose specialised readership they will appeal, and an author who wants his paper to be read by interested people in many countries should recognize that this is the proper way to reach them.

L. P. GARROD

Tumors of the Thymus. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. 2nd series. Fascicle 13. By Juan Rosai and Gerald D. Levine. (Pp. xii + 228; 177 figures; \$4.95.) Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

It is 20 years since the first AFIP fascicle on *Tumors of the Thymus Gland* was published under the authorship of Dr Benjamin Castleman, and the content of the new fascicle reflects the considerable increase in knowledge which has accrued during that time.

The embryology and congenital anomalies of the thymus are first described, followed by a brief but useful chapter on the thymus in immune deficiencies. About 130 pages are devoted to thymoma, and consideration is then given to thymic carcinoid tumours, anterior mediastinal germ cell tumours, malignant lymphoma, tumour-like conditions, and rarer mediastinal tumours. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs of gross specimens, photomicrographs, electron micrographs, and a number of radiographs. All the pictures are of high quality. Adequate references are given and there is a useful index. This excellent publication will prove to be of great value to pathologists and clinicians alike.

N. F. C. GOWING