Book reviews

recommended both to researchers and to those engaged in the routine analysis of CSF.

A. I. SPRIGGS

Light Microscopic Techniques in Biology and Medicine. By J. James. (Pp. xi + 336; illustrated; Dfl. 90; £21.60.) The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff B.V. 1976.

This book sets out to give enough background optics for a rational approach to all the common microscopic techniques as well as the basic principles of less common ones and on the whole it succeeds admirably. The author does not claim to have written a comprehensive treatise but has given a good guide for further reading at the end of each chapter. There are excellent line drawings which render the basic optics intelligible with minimal mathematical expertise. Surprisingly, one or two of the photomicrographs are disappointing. This is also a very practical work and even includes a section on posture which will be welcomed by sufferers of cervical spondylosis.

On the whole the English is clear and very readable though occasionally it has a slightly stilted Germanic flavour. There are a few typographical errors of minor importance though the one on p. 195, fourth line from the bottom where 'anisotropic' should read 'isotropic' is more serious. These small criticisms do not, however, detract from the value of this well-printed and well-presented book. I fear, however, that few will be able to afford to add it to their personal collection. Nevertheless it would be a valuable addition to the laboratory library for the profit of technician and pathologist, both of whom are regrettably often woefully ignorant of the workings of this basic laboratory tool.

J. C. VALENTINE

Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Edited by K. Okuda and R. L. Peters. (Pp. x + 499; illustrated; £27.00.) Chichester: John Wiley. 1976.

Although relatively uncommon in the western world, hepatocellular carcinoma has attracted much attention for a number of reasons. These included the association with and the possible aetiological role of aflatoxin food contamination, oral contraception, hepatitis B infection, and genetic factors; the significance of hepatocyte dysplasia as a pre-neoplastic lesion; the inappropriate secretion of humoral

substances and alpha feto-protein and their value in diagnosis; the development of isotope scanning and angiography in localization; and the recent attempts at radical cure by surgical resection and chemotherapy. These are among the many topics dealt with in detail in this book. For the clinical pathologist it would be difficult to imagine a more complete and lavishly illustrated account not only of primary liver cancer, but of all other human hepatic tumours and tumour-like lesions, both benign and malignant.

Each of the 21 chapters stands as a review article by one or two acknowledged experts. While this has led to some unevenness in overall presentation and in relevance for the general reader there is little by way of overlap or conflicting statements, and the book can be recommended with confidence to all clinicians and pathologists concerned with human liver disease. It appears that this is the first of a series on diseases of the liver from this publishing house, and one looks forward with interest to subsequent volumes.

R. S. PATRICK

The Cervix. Edited by J. A. Jordan and Albert Singer. (Pp. xviii + 529; illustrated; £20.00.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1976.

This book comprises 43 chapters by as many different contributors. The sheer size of the book bears testimony to the extent of the participation of the human cervix in the advance of biological knowledge which has occurred in the last two decades.

A comprehensive coverage of most physiological and pathological conditions affecting the cervix is presented, and considerable attention is paid to new fields of research. In the main, the discussion is critical and well balanced, and most of the numerous illustrations are of a high quality. The description and correlation of colposcopic and histopathological patterns in cervical epithelial dysplasia together with transmission and scanning electron microscopy of normal and abnormal epithelium is most welcome. The uterine cervix is presented, quite correctly, as a dynamic structure rather than one merely fulfilling a passive role in reproduction.

This book is a reference work which is largely directed towards specialists in the field of reproductive and gynaecological disorders. The content is instructive and

valuable and should appeal to both clinician and scientist alike.

J. O. W. BEILBY

Developmental Biology and Pathology. Current Topics in Pathology. Vol. 62. Edited by A. Gropp and K. Benirschke. (Pp. ix + 218; illustrated; \$39.40.) Berlin: Heidelberg: New York: Springer-Verlag. 1976.

This book is part of a long running series in which various topics are reviewed by workers active in their particular fields of study. It has always maintained a high scientific standard, and the present volume is no exception. After a brief introduction by Austin on errors of very early development, 12 topics are dealt with under the four general headings of Oocyte Maturation, Early Embryo and Maternal Host, Pharmacological and Hormonal Factors in Early Embryogenesis, Teratology, and Cytogenetics. Much of the information will be useful to paediatric or gynaecological pathologists, particularly those who wish to acquire some knowledge of the background against which many of the disease processes that concern them are expressed. Illustrations and diagrams are of high quality throughout, and references are up to date. Although the symposium on which this book was based was held in 1974, many 1975 and 1976 references are included.

C. L. BERRY

The Neutrophil. By Patrick Murphy. (Pp. xii + 217; illustrated; £21.54.) Plenum, New York and London: Plenum Medical Book Company. 1976.

Although the neutrophil is not so fashionable a cell as the lymphocyte, there are quite a lot of people working with neutrophils nowadays. It is possible to hold international conferences on topics such as chemotaxis or bactericidal mechanisms and to fill a room with experts who disagree about quite a lot of things. Consequently, to write a monograph entitled *The Neutrophil* is not a light undertaking. Dr Murphy, in setting out on this task, decided, I think rightly, not to attempt to be encyclopaedic but to hinge his discussion around selected pertinent papers. He begins at the beginning by telling us what the cells look like. He has covered most of the fields of neutrophil physiology that anyone likely to be interested in neutrophils would wish to see dealt with, even fields about which nothing is really known, such as control of