Book reviews

Histopathology. Vol. 1. No. 1. January 1977. Edited by R. E. Cotton. (Pp. 86; illustrated; published bi-monthly; UK £27.00, overseas £32.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1977.

The proliferation of medical journals shows no signs of abating, and for many the struggle to keep up with literature is difficult, if not impossible. A need for any new journal can always be made, but not all have a distinct role to play. The aims and editorial policy of this new journal is 'to publish original histopathological material having clinical application in the study of human disease' and 'it is designed to be of practical importance to the diagnostic histopathologist'. During the last few years there has been an increasing tendency for many important histopathological articles to be published in journals devoted to clinical specialities and, inevitably, these cannot be readily available in most laboratories. Many pathologists have felt the need for a journal devoted to critical studies in human pathology and, judged by the standard of the first number, which includes such topics as chronic hepatitis, immunofluorescence, and immuno-electron microscopy findings in membranous glomerulonephritis, and primary lymphomas of the gastrointestinal tract, the journal will soon be on the shelf of most practising histopathologists. In a foreword, Dr Nathan Kaufman, President of the International Academy of Pathology, refers to the launching of *Histopathology* as a landmark in the development, growth, and commitment of the International Academy of Pathology and of the British Division in particular. Judged by the first issue, the prospects for this newcomer are bright.

M. S. R. HUTT

Histological Typing of Intestinal Tumours. International Histological Classification of Tumours. No. 15. By B. C. Morson in collaboration with L. H. Sobin and pathologists in 17 countries. (Pp. 69; 134 colour figures—transparencies also available; Sw. fr. 80) WHO: Geneva. 1976.

This book maintains the high standards set by its predecessors in the series. The histological classification itself is clear and

unambiguous, though I would prefer the term 'endocrine cell tumour' to carcinoid, and I am doubtful whether leiomyomas, leiomyoblastomas, and leiomyosarcomas can be readily separated on histological grounds. Recent evidence also suggests that most small intestinal lymphomas classified as Hodgkin's disease or reticulum cell sarcomas are in fact immunoblastic tumours; those associated with malabsorption may also show mucosal changes.

There are occasional dogmatic statements in the text with which I would take issue: for example, on p. 56 that 'metastasis does not occur unless the submucosa is invaded', since I have seen more than one example, and on p. 64 that oleogranulomas consist of lipid-containing cyts, since the injection material is not always a lipid in the strict sense. These are, however, minor points and are more than offset by the excellence of the illustrations, only four of which are below standard (12 shows marked fixation artefact, 50 and 60 are poorly reproduced, and 116 would pass as ulcerative colitis without atypia at this magnification). It is a valuable book and I recommend it highly.

I. DAWSON

Immunobiology of the Macrophage. Edited by David S. Nelson. (Pp. xviii + 633; illustrated; £27.70.) London: Academic Press.

It is a sign of changes in the patterns of our research work that Nelson's earlier single-handed study of the macrophage (*Macrophages and Immunity*, North-Holland, 1969) should now be replaced by a fatter, more expensive tome written by many experts under Nelson's editorship. Like most such compendia, the new volume lacks the stylistic cohesion and narrative characteristic which would enable it to be read as a book. However, as a reference source and for those curious about macrophages it is jolly nice. Not surprisingly, macrophages are depicted as the increasingly versatile guardian of the triploblast body. It is certainly worth encouraging your library to buy the book for Nelson's chapter on perspectives and prospects alone.

A. J. S. DAVIES

Symposium on the Fibrotic Process. Annals of the Rheumatic Disease, April 1976, Supplement No. 2. Edited by Malcolm I. V. Jayson. (Pp. iv + 79; illustrated; £3.50.) London: British Medical Association. 1977.

Fibrosis is a fundamental pathological response to tissue injury. Normally advantageous, it produces disease when excessive; notable examples are cirrhosis, the various pulmonary fibroses, scleroderma, rheumatic heart disease, sclerosing peritonitis, and schistosomiasis. Fibrous tissue is collagenous, and increased production, diminished destruction or a combination of each are possible explanations. In any event, knowledge of factors which control collagen synthesis or breakdown is essential for investigations of these diseases.

This symposium is a complete guide to the current (1976) state of the art. The four genetic collagen types, the importance of crosslinkages to stability, soluble factors which stimulate its synthesis and breakdown, and the importance of collagenase in its remodelling are lucidly and sometimes excitingly reviewed. All the relevant diseases are mentioned. Possible therapeutic approaches, including crosslinking inhibitors (lathyrogens and penicillamine), secretory inhibitors (colchicine), and the possible role of amino acid analogues, are included.

This symposium is a concise and authoritative guide to an important field and can be highly recommended.

F. M. POPE

Pathology of Peripheral Nerves. By R. O. Weller and J. Cervós-Navarro. (Pp. vii + 225; illustrated; £13.50.) London and Boston: Butterworths. 1977.

After a long period of neglect, a number of publications have recently been devoted to the subject of peripheral nerve disorders. The justification for a further book on this subject therefore requires careful consideration. *Pathology of Peripheral Nerves* has the combined purpose of providing a condensed account of established ideas and recent progress and a practical manual for those wishing to study nerve biopsies and necropsy material. It therefore does not duplicate what is already