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

available. Both authors have an established reputation in this field.

The book begins with a brief historical review which is followed by chapters on the techniques of nerve biopsy and histological processing, and on normal structure. A useful inclusion is a section on preparative artefact. Recent years have witnessed the growth of a large literature, often in journals that should have been better informed, based entirely on artefactual appearances in electron microscope preparations. The next two chapters are devoted to a consideration of the basic pathological mechanisms, including axonal degeneration and regeneration and segmental demyelination and remyelination, and the appearances in individual disorders. The latter is comprehensive but not exhaustive. Occasional misinterpretations from the literature, such as the report on the occurrence of infarcts in peripheral nerve in diabetic neuropathy, have crept in. The topic of peripheral nerve tumours has been given more detailed consideration. This is a difficult field, and the chapter on this topic constitutes a particularly valuable part of the book. The final appendix comprises a short practical guide to the examination of nerve biopsies.

Outside specialised units, peripheral nerve pathology has often been poorly executed in the past, so much so that a report prepared by the World Federation of Neurology in 1970 recommended that nerve biopsy should be undertaken only by units possessing special expertise. This book should contribute towards rectifying this situation.

P. K. THOMAS

Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry. Edited by Norbet W. Tietz. (Pp. xxvi + 1263; illustrated; £24.00.) Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1976.

The second edition of this book is most welcome for during the past six years, since the first edition, many techniques which were largely of a research nature have now been adopted in the diagnostic chemical laboratory. The book is written for students of medicine, biochemistry, and medical technology with an emphasis on the fundamentals of clinical chemistry. There is not only information on analytical procedures and their chemical principles, but also discussion of the clinical significance of the results. Much new information is included on immunochemical techniques, including radioimmunoassay, and methods for the estimation of serum pro-

teins and lipoproteins. There is up-to-date information on quality control procedures, laboratory instrumentation, and the use of computers in clinical chemistry.

The book is comprehensive in its scope, but future editions will be improved by a separate chapter on paediatric and antenatal clinical chemistry. Many techniques relevant to fetoplacental function, antenatal diagnosis of inherited metabolic disease, and congenital malformations are described but scattered throughout the text. There is some inconsistency in the use of units. It would have been better to use either traditional or SI units consistently, and to provide readers with conversion tables as well as factors.

The contributors are largely from North America but now also include Donald Moss (enzymes) and Gregor Grant (proteins and amino-acids) from the United Kingdom and Siggaard-Anderson (blood gases) from Denmark, giving the second edition a more international approach.

The price is competitive when compared with that of similar books but is still expensive. Nevertheless, this is a valuable book to purchase both for the laboratory and for the library.

BRENDA M. SLAVIN

Guide to the Collection and Transport of Virological Specimens (including Chlamydial and Rickettsial Specimens). By C. R. Madeley. (Pp. 40; illustrated; Sw. fr. 10.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1977.

There can be nothing more wasteful of time and effort than to examine specimens which have been taken at the wrong time, from the wrong site, and transported in the wrong way. There are undoubtedly situations where the services of a specialised virus laboratory are required, but the clinician or epidemiologist must take the specimen from the appropriate site, place it in the correct medium, and package it in a way which ensures not only preservation but the safety of those concerned in its handling. Extra special precautions are required for sending samples from one country to another. It is with these points in mind that this book has been written, and Dr C. R. Madeley covers all these points and more in a clear and lucid fashion. It should be at hand in all virus laboratories, not only to refresh the minds of laboratory workers but also to provide a readily available means of educating those who are taking and transporting specimens to the laboratory. It is

to be hoped that the book will find its way into their hands as well.

D. TAYLOR-ROBINSON

Serology of Fungal Infection and Farmer's Lung Disease. A Laboratory Manual. Edited by E. G. V. Evans. (Pp. 360; illustrated; £1.50.) Obtainable from Dr W. Chattaway, Department of Biochemistry, The University of Leeds, Hyde Terrace, Leeds LS2 9LS.

This laboratory manual sets out the serological tests that are available to assist in the diagnosis of candidiasis, aspergillosis, cryptococcosis, histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, blastomycosis, and farmer's lung. The methods for the tests and for the preparation of the appropriate antigens and antisera are concisely explained. An interpretation of results is made at the end of each section. Details of apparatus, formulae, and of the commercial availability of serodiagnostic kits are given in an appendix. This book succeeds in its purpose of providing details of the simpler serological tests in current use, and workers interested in this field should find much of practical value in it.

YVONNE M. CLAYTON

Correction

Slide haemagglutination test in hydatid disease: a corrective study of diagnostic procedures. *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 29, 39 (1976).

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