

their need); immune response (humoral and cell mediated); epidemiology (incidence and prevalence rates; association with infertility); possibilities for predicting future incidence); clinical manifestations; collection, isolation, and identification of gonococci; antimicrobial susceptibility (including a section on β -lactamase producers and an appendix on their detection); therapeutic and control measures. Each section has recommendations for further study and a comprehensive list of relevant references.

The final recommendations are that a more sensitive serological test should be developed and the rôle of gonococcal components in pathogenesis be determined. Furthermore, there should be continuous surveillance of antimicrobial susceptibility and attention to antibiotics other than penicillin. The book is a fund of information for those interested or indeed actively working in the field, and although appearing more than one year after the Geneva meeting it is still up-to-date and can be highly recommended.

D. TAYLOR-ROBINSON

Evans' Histological Appearances of Tumours. 3rd edition. By David J. B. Ashley. (Pp. ix + 857; illustrated; £40.00.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1978.

This well-known book has made a welcome reappearance after a lapse of 12 years ably revised and with much new material by Dr D. J. B. Ashley. The book retains its familiar pattern with detailed accounts of tumour histology coupled with a discussion of the histogenesis. There is a particular emphasis on clinical features and presentation. This comprehensive coverage makes 'Evans' valuable as a bench book, and its up-to-date references provide a good starting point for further reading. In the maze of journals and monographs available today the single-author approach has much to commend it for those trying to get an oversight, and the book is particularly useful for those preparing for the MRCPath examinations.

There is a new double-column format, which makes for easy reading, and the text is supplemented by many photographs, which overall achieve a high standard though individual ones fall short and are not helpful. My own copy of the second edition fell to pieces after rough usage by a succession of junior

staff; the third edition is commendably bound in a robust fashion.

Dr Ashley is to be congratulated on so ably assuming the task of Dr Winston Evans. He can be assured that the third edition will serve as useful a function as its predecessors.

G. SLAVIN

An Atlas of Artifacts: Encountered in the Preparation of Microscopic Tissue Sections. By S. W. Thompson and L. G. Luna. (Pp. xi + 190; illustrated; \$21.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1978.

To be asked to review this book brings out the paranoia, but all histopathologists live in a little world of artifacts. Come clean—do some of your sections contain artifacts that should not be there? As your laboratory repertoire and its equipment have proliferated, have the routine H and E sections deteriorated? Those who can say 'no' are heaven born (all pathologists are, of course, honest); the rest of us must take this book seriously.

It is vast, with over 450 monochrome photomicrographs, 48 repeated in colour. It is comprehensive, starting with 'artifacts' like carbon particles and foreign body reactions that are not artifacts, and ending with a defective mounting medium, which is not now available and which we did not use when it was. In between are lots of adequate photographs of all the artifacts that you have ever seen, and more besides. Many are old rogues that we have known since our school days.

The purpose of a book of this kind is clear—to demonstrate artifacts, state their cause, and tell us how to avoid them. Does it succeed? Yes, up to a point. It is easy to pick up and glance at, almost impossible to read. The text is not progressive; it is made up of short legends to figures that are not set out in the same pattern as the photographs, and when it tries to do this, gets it wrong (pp. 36, 48, 158). It is repetitive, with 15 photographs of ice crystal artifacts, and 18 of mercury pigment, both of which we know about anyway. The scrappy text never has the chance to explain the complexity of some artifacts which may be multifactorial, nor does it stress that a technical defect can cause multiple cutting or staining artifacts. Pathologists will not enjoy being told that the majority of fixation artifacts are the fault of the pathologist (p. 22).

An important book—buy it, read it, and leave it in the tea-room. It will provoke argument and may well improve your sections, but there is still a place for

other books on this subject.

P.S. Is it artifact or artefact? *Ars, artis*, third declension, feminine; *arti-* is an old spelling of the ablative case, still extant in Caesar. Both spellings are respectable.

R. A. B. DRURY

Structure and Function of Cells. By Colin R. Hopkins. (Pp. xiii + 266; illustrated; £3.50.) London, Philadelphia, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1978.

Any book that bridges the gap between two subjects in the medical curriculum must be a good idea. In this case it is the correlation of biochemistry with cell structures as revealed by various histological techniques and especially by electron microscopy.

The text is clear and concise and it is well illustrated by good micrographs and useful diagrams. It is possible that in fact it is a bit too concise and full of information for easy reading by the average medical or science undergraduate at whom it is primarily aimed. It would perhaps appeal more to medical students on intercalated BSc courses or postgraduates taking up careers in medical sciences, ie, those who already have an acquaintance with the relevant terminologies. In any case, the surprisingly low price puts it within the pocket of 'students' at all levels.

To read such a correlation of biochemical function with ultrastructure is very satisfying, and a pathologist is left with the desire to extrapolate the findings in normal cells to those of pathological process such as neoplasia.

JULIE CROW

Progress in Clinical Pathology. Volume VII. Edited by Mario Stefanini. (Pp. xv + 397; illustrated; \$48.50; £31.50.) New York, San Francisco, London: Grune and Stratton. 1978.

This mainly American volume is one of a series said to be directed primarily, but not exclusively, at the pathologist who practises in a community hospital and not a large university hospital, or within the walls of a medical school. If this is the aim, the standard of chapter content is extremely variable, dealing with essential everyday knowledge—for example, in the chapter on the clinical assessment of the kidneys—to topics hardly yet out of the research category, such as cyclic nucleotides and clinical problems.

In Britain, where the trend to increasing