

Hemopoietic Dysplasias (Preleukemic States). Edited by M. Bessis and G. Brecher. (Pp. 359; 94 figures; DM48, \$22.10.) Berlin: Heidelberg: New York: Springer-Verlag. 1977.

The main title 'Hemopoietic Dysplasias' was the consensus term finally agreed by the participants to a conference on 'Pre-leukaemic States', which is the subtitle. Although the conference was held in 1975 and the proceedings have been published as Volume 2 Nos. 1-2 of *Blood Cells*, it is nevertheless helpful to have this re-edition because the subject is one of great theoretical importance. To contemplate the pathology of sideroblastic anaemia, marrow hypoplasia, paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria, indeed all those conditions which may precede overt leukaemia, forces us to conceive how the haemopoietic system functions, how successive stages of proliferation and differentiation are controlled, and how break-downs may occur.

The speakers deal expertly with the subject from many aspects—clinical, morphological, experimental, theoretical, and so forth—and their discussions are illuminating. If there is one criticism it is the absence of a cytogeneticist since the chromosomal data receive adequate attention only in the section on radiation leukaemogenesis. The distinction between polyclonal and monoclonal proliferations might have been made and the evidence for progression more clearly demonstrated. There are also errors in the editing: on page 349, for example, there is a reference to 'myeloid dysphasia' and it is almost appropriate! But, all in all, for haematologists and oncologists this is a valuable and thought-provoking book.

H. E. M. KAY

Pathology in Gynecology and Obstetrics. 2nd edition. By Claude Gompel and Steven G. Silverberg. (Pp. xi + 592; illustrated; £31.60.) Philadelphia and Toronto: Lippincott. 1977.

The revised edition of Gompel and Silverberg's book covers most aspects of gynaecological and obstetrical pathology and includes chapters on the sexual maldevelopment syndromes and cytogenetics. In addition, there is a well-illustrated section on the pathology of the breast. In some ways one might regard this book as over-ambitious as its very comprehensiveness has necessitated only brief reference to some less well known, but

nonetheless important lesions. Any shortcomings in this respect are mitigated by the extensive and well set out bibliographies at the end of each chapter. There are liberal and, in the main, good photographic illustrations and line drawings; some of the electron micrographs are, however, of questionable value. Overall, the content is up to date and authoritative, embodying opinion from both American and European sources. It represents an important contribution to the knowledge and understanding of this branch of histopathology.

J. O. W. BEILBY

Medical Immunology. By M. S. Thaler, R. D. Klausner, and H. J. Cohen. (Pp. xvi + 480; illustrated; £13.60.) Philadelphia and Toronto: Lippincott. 1977. (Distributed in Great Britain by Blackwell Scientific Publications.)

This textbook of immunology is designed primarily for medical students and for this purpose it has several advantages. The book is lucidly and agreeably written, flowing with a style and verve which can only be achieved when a book is produced by a single or a very limited number of authors. The diagrams are outstanding, thereby removing much of the philosophical contention which commonly obfuscates books of this kind. The illustrations of complement activation, for example, are superb. Above all, the format of the text emphasises that immunology, like other medical sciences, really does have a rational molecular basis. The authors also stick to their declared intention of basing their arguments on observations drawn from human physiology and disease. Thus the section on immunosuppression avoids many of the absurdities which appear in contributions on this subject from non-medical scientists. Moreover, with the needs of students in mind, this beautifully produced book is low-priced. The book's main failing is paradoxically the author's concern to include the most recent developments. The brief comet of 'suppressor T cells' in hypogammaglobulinaemia has already disappeared from the immunological firmament and critical counsel will be needed if youthful readers are to distinguish facts from speculation. So, too, will be the guidance of other grey-beards when immunologists invade clinical preserves; not surprisingly, there is no reference to the statement that '20 to 60 per cent of patients with longstanding

rheumatoid arthritis have detectable amyloid deposits'. On balance, however, the authors have written something which this reviewer had by now assumed was impossible, a textbook on immunology with individual qualities as high as appeal.

A. M. DENMANN

Anaerobic Bacteriology: Clinical and Laboratory Practice. 3rd edition. By A. Trevor Willis. (Pp. x + 360; illustrated; £10.00.) London: Butterworths. 1977.

The 3rd edition of this book contains much useful information about non-sporing anaerobes, which was lacking in previous editions. The chapter on the methods of growing anaerobes has a valuable section on the choice of anaerobic jars and the best ways of using them. Numerous helpful references are included in each chapter.

Emphasis is made throughout on the methods developed by the author at Luton and Dunstable Hospital. However, it is likely that some passages will cause controversy: for example, it is suggested that the multiple cultural methods used for blood culture are not routinely necessary, and it is also claimed that there is usually little difficulty in interpreting anaerobic plate cultures of sputum when a purulent fleck is selected.

Dr Trevor Willis is an acknowledged world authority on clostridia, and his chapters on this subject are excellent.

Antibiotics are frequently mentioned, but a separate chapter including further data on the chemotherapy of anaerobic infections might have been helpful.

This book provides a readable, comprehensive, and modern text on anaerobic infections. It is recommended to all clinical microbiologists.

D. C. SHANSON

CRC Handbook Series in Clinical Laboratory Science. Section D: Blood Banking. Volume 1. Editor-in-Chief: David Seligson, Section Editors: Tibor Greenwalt, Edwin A. Steane. (Pp. xvii + 598; illustrated; £55.20.) Cleveland: CRC Press. 1977. (Distributed in Great Britain by Blackwell Scientific Publications.)

To British readers, at least, the title of this 600-page 'handbook' is misleading. After an opening section on the chemistry, structure, and function of the red cell, it launches into detailed accounts of the blood groups, the predominant emphasis

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being their biochemistry. Unfortunately, the contributions are very uneven, suggesting that individual authors had differing groups of readers in mind. There is a 200-page account of the ABO system by the French serologists Salmon and Cartron which is authoritative and very detailed. The Rh system is covered in 10 pages! Dr George Bird from Birmingham contributes a number of chapters, including excellent ones on autoagglutination, polyagglutination, and lectins. Another first-class contribution is from J. H. Edwards on blood groups and linkage. Inevitably, this book must be compared with Race and Sanger's *Blood Groups in Man*. For the research worker studying the red cell membrane or the chemistry of blood groups, this book is more informative and a very worthwhile buy, but for the hospital haematologist or trainee who wishes to have a general understanding of the blood groups, Race and Sanger is likely to remain first choice. It is more balanced in its coverage of the blood groups, cheaper, and, above all, because of its unified authorship, it has style.

Presumably further volumes in this Clinical Laboratory Science series, as yet unspecified, will cover more practical aspects of blood banking.

L. A. D. TOVEY

An Introduction to Cell Population Kinetics. By W. A. Aherne, R. S. Camplejohn, and N. A. Wright. (Pp. viii + 88; 40 figures; £2.95.) London: Edward Arnold. 1977.

Cell population kinetics is a relatively new area of biology, which emphasises the time dimension in normal and pathological tissue processes. Investigators in many related fields have been appreciating the impact of kinetic studies on their work, and, in particular among pathologists, there has been a growing realisation that cell kinetics helps to transform a static histopathological picture into one of dynamic histology. The difficulty has been that his new discipline tends to involve a fair amount of mathematics and a willingness to take mathematical models seriously.

This little book sets out to provide a concise outline of the basic ideas, models, and calculational procedures in cell kinetics. It does not dwell on technical procedures; the emphasis is on the theoretical aspects of the subject. There is no attempt to 'speak down' to a non-mathematical reader, and while no more

than school-grade mathematics is required, the book does assume that the reader is at home with exponentials and normal and binomial distributions. I am sure that it will be welcomed in any biomedical research department that has an interest in the cell kinetic field.

G. STEEL

Experimental Hematology Today. Edited by Siegmund J. Baum and G. David Ledney. (Pp. xviii + 251; illustrated; DM 61.40, US \$28.20.) Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1977.

This book comprises 27 research papers based on presentations given to the Fifth Annual Meeting of the International Society for Experimental Hematology held in Washington, DC, in 1976. It is produced to a high standard and is well illustrated. The papers are mainly concerned with the experimental study of multipotential and committed stem cells and their respective progeny, and with experimental aspects of bone marrow transplantation. The subject matter is, therefore, of interest to the research worker using spleen colony and agar culture techniques, or animal models, for the study of cell kinetics and differentiation. Four of the papers deal with experimental models for the study of leukaemia and four with bone marrow transplantation.

The book's main value is in bringing together these related research techniques, but since the subject matter is appropriately highly technical it will be of limited interest to the general haematologist or pathologist.

J. STUART

Immunology of Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease. Current Topics in Immunology Series No. 8. By Ralph Wright. (Pp. viii + 132; illustrated; £4.75.) London: Edward Arnold. 1977.

This single-author monograph is the eighth in the Current Topics in Immunology Series. It is aimed at the practising clinician and provides crisp, factual, and critical accounts of the current state of knowledge in the immunology of various gastrointestinal and liver diseases, including gastritis, coeliac disease, Crohn's disease, acute and chronic hepatitis, and tumours.

Each chapter starts with a short, interesting description of the disease concerned, thus providing information

which the scientist-immunologist and postgraduate student will not readily find in other much longer immunology texts. The references are representative and up-to-date; and there are many clearly designed diagrams and tables.

This well-written book is recommended not only to clinicians but also to laboratory-based scientists with interests in GI and liver immunology. It fills a gap in the literature on the subject, spanning the fields of clinical medicine, theoretical immunology, and the practice of gastroenterology.

ANNE FERGUSON

Urinary Cytology. Phase Contrast, Microscopy and Analysis of Stained Smears. By H. J. de Voogt, P. Rathert, and M. E. Beyer-Boon. (Pp. x + 194; illustrated mostly in colour; DM 98.00, \$43.20.) Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1977.

This is a beautiful atlas, concerned with the identification of cancer cells in urine.

The first part is a text, rather uneven and staccato. The section with descriptions of cells lacks cross-references to the plates. Figures are given showing the diagnostic accuracy achieved. Like nearly all before them these authors report a high false-positive rate for cancer cells—7.9% of all positive reports—mostly accounted for by lithiasis. This is acceptable for a screening test but not for a diagnostic one. (Later, we are surprisingly told 'the specificity of urinary cytology for diagnosis of carcinomas of the urinary tract is high'!)

The second part consists of a superb collection of photographs linked to case histories, in each case studied with phase-contrast, May-Grünwald-Giemsa, and Papanicolaou's stains, and with the corresponding histology. These make the book an essential purchase for anyone engaged in this difficult field.

A. I. SPRIGGS

The Lymphoid System. Methods of Clinical Investigation. Edited by Arnfinn Engeset and Tore Godal (*Lymphology*, Volume 10, No. 2, June 1977). (Pp. 112; 56 figures; 7 tables; DM35.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1977.

This is not a textbook but a special edition of *Lymphology*, the Official Organ of the International Society of Lymphology. As such, it cannot attempt to be a comprehensive work, and the editors state that