

Book reviews

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

the contributions were chosen for their methodological slant. For this reason many of them will be superseded as improved methods are developed. Nonetheless, this little book has an immediacy and enthusiasm which reflects accurately the 'state of the art'. One of the nice things about lymphologists is that almost by definition they are people who actually do things with their hands, and their technical preoccupations make a welcome change from the intellectual pretensions of much current immunology. However, basic aspects have not been neglected and they are dealt with in the first three contributions. All of the 14 contributions are short but each is provided with adequate references. The expert will find items that will interest (and occasionally irritate) him and the tyro will welcome such a wide coverage in so short a space. Un-

fortunately, brevity has not produced economy and the book costs DM 35 (nearly £9).

J. G. HALL

Directory of On-Going Research in Cancer Epidemiology 1977. Edited by C. S. Muir and G. Wagner. (Pp. xii + 599; Sw.fr. 25, \$10.00.) Lyon: International Agency for Research on Cancer. 1977. (Distributed by the World Health Organization, Geneva.)

Many studies in cancer epidemiology take a number of years to complete and other scientists may initiate similar studies. Many workers will wish to know about work in progress so as deliberately to avoid the field of work, carry out complementary work, or replicate the work so that the results can be compared. Hap-

hazard overlap must be avoided, and this directory is a major step in this direction.

The reviewer has found this directory of value. The layout is clear, the main presentation being details of projects ordered by locality within country. This section can be accessed by cross-indexes of principal investigators, cancer sites, topics, or type of study.

The directory is obviously a major undertaking, which has been pursued with care to ensure comprehensive coverage. The ultimate value depends upon research workers participating by (1) providing information about projects, and (2) indicating in sufficiently precise terms details of their studies. The amount of detail varies considerably despite editorial efforts to ensure a uniform standard of entry.

M. R. ALDERS