Book reviews

Male Reproductive System. Fine Structure Analysis by Scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopy. By Robert D. Yates and Mildred Gordon. (Pp. x + 209; illustrated; £29.65.) Tunbridge Wells: Abacus Press. 1978.

This volume, to which there are 19 contributors, has grown from the proceedings of a symposium on the Male Reproduction System at a meeting of the Electron Microscope Society of America and concentrates, in particular, on ultra-structure as studied by scanning and transmission techniques. The subjects covered include the structure of spermatozoa, testicular biopsy in infertility, appearances in the testes after vasectomy, structure of Sertoli cells and their role in spermatogenesis, and prostatic carcinoma. Nine of the 11 chapters describe the findings in a wide variety of experimental animals and only two are directly concerned with the human, though throughout the book the emphasis is on relating the experimental results to the human clinical experience. The text is illustrated by electron micrographs, which in general are of good quality. The bibliography is full and up to date. Anyone interested in the many problems of infertility in the male will find this a useful and stimulating addition to their library.

R. C. B. PUGH

The Diabetic Pancreas. Edited by B. W. Volk and K. F. Wellmann. (Pp. xviii + 599; illustrated; \$54.00.) New York and London: Plenum Press. 1977.

This is a comprehensive analysis of the cytophysiology and pathology of the pancreatic islets, in particular in diabetes mellitus. It is up to date and likely to prove indispensable to all workers in the field. The confusing problems of the description of islet cell types and their enumeration are particularly clearly handled by Bosquist and by the editors themselves; and the latter contribute an authoritative series of chapters on the pathological changes found in the islets in idiopathic and hormonal diabetes (mellitus), and again in the infants of diabetic mothers. They discuss in detail the relationship between diabetes and conditions such as pancreatitis and haemochromatosis. The pathology of juvenile diabetes is covered by Lecompte

and Gepts, and there are helpful sections on spontaneous diabetes in animals and on chemically and hormonally induced diabetes.

Aspects of more fundamental cytophysiological interest include a masterly chapter on the physiology of insulin release, by Lacy, and an analysis, in part based on the use of freeze-fracture, of the morphology of membrane systems in the islets, by Ori and Perrelet.

The chapter on endocrine tumours of the pancreas by Creutzfeldt is fascinating and reviews a field that will prove of increasing importance to pathologists. Attention is given, incidentally, to a practical diagnostic problem, which is sometimes unappreciated, namely, that actively secreting cells may not accumulate sufficient secretory product to allow the identification of the cell-type involved. In particular, the secretory cells of insulinomas often lack granules staining with the aldehyde fuchsin technique, a difficulty partly overcome by the use of more sensitive immunocytochemical methods.

This aside, there is also a particularly interesting paper by Hegre and Lazarow on islet transplantation, a procedure which looks like being of therapeutic value in the future.

This is a first-rate analysis of the pathophysiology of the pancreatic islets, which emphasises the importance of the concurrent application of up-to-date biological and morphological techniques, made by Symington in his rather similar analysis of the pathology of the adrenal cortex.

The book merits expansion into a comprehensive monograph worthy of Lubarsch and Henke's *Handbook of Special Pathology*.

J. C. SLOPER

Atlas of Diagnostic Cytology. By Claude Gompel. (Pp. ix + 237; illustrated; \$50.80.) Chichester: John Wiley. 1978.

This is more a textbook than an atlas with its 230 pages of script and 1384 references, though it contains over 360 colour plates. These, though small in size, are well chosen and expressive and display on the whole a good colour balance.

The approach is one of an academic treatise, as one would expect from the author, and the treatment of chapters on cell constituents, cytogenetics, and the

use of electron microscopy set a high standard.

Attention to collecting and processing techniques is emphasised throughout the volume, and there is a chapter devoted to stains with a brief account of quality control and automation.

The study of disease patterns, such as the preinvasive states of the cervix, are along traditional lines, utilising the WHO classifications and the UICC classification of urological tumours with their pre-malignant stages well described, though this is less well documented in the case of the gastrointestinal tract.

Overall, the bibliography and depth of study of the subject matter at the Institut Jules Bordet are reflected in this volume and make it a work worthy of possession by diagnostic cytologists, both in training and in practice.

O. A. N. HUSSAIN

Handbook of Clinical Neurology. Series editors: P. J. Vinken and G. W. Bruyn. Volume 33. *Infections of the Nervous System. Part 1.* Edited by P. J. Vinken and G. W. Bruyn in collaboration with H. L. Klawans. (Pp. xii + 560; illustrated US \$97.95.) Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company. 1978.

This well-produced book is one of a series of 36 volumes and is the first of three volumes on infections of the nervous system. The reviewer has no personal knowledge of the other volumes of the series, but the indications are that the series is aimed primarily at clinicians (neurologists, paediatricians, and neonatologists) but the present volume includes a wealth of information for infectious disease clinicians, microbiologists, and general pathologists as well as for neuropathologists.

This volume is a multi-author work with 22 chapters which consider both the common and less common bacterial infections. Syphilis, leptospirosis, and relapsing fever are also covered. Although volume 36 is to deal with intoxications the editors thought it wise to include chapters on neurological complications of diphtheria and on tetanus in this volume, but botulism is deferred to volume 36.

There is a full description about all varieties of infection, the various investigative procedures that may be