Book reviews

Pathology Annual 1978. Part 1. Edited by Sheldon C. Sommers and Paul Peter Rosen. (Pp. x + 418; illustrated; £21.55.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts; Hemel Hempstead: Prentice Hall International. 1978.

Important articles of pathological interest are published in such a wide variety of journals that it is virtually impossible to keep abreast of even major additions to knowledge. The publication of this annual goes some way to rectifying this state of affairs by providing a useful summary of advances in areas not always covered by pathology journals. Thus the present volume contains an entertaining and informative article on some aspects of aural pathology by I. Friedmann as well as papers on such widely differing subjects as central pontine myelinosis, adiaspiromycosis, experimental glomerulonephritis, and odontogenic cysts of the jaws. Of more immediate relevance to practising histopathologists perhaps are admirable reviews on asbestos and mesothelioma by Kannerstein and his colleagues and a well illustrated account of early squamous carcinoma of the lung by Darryl Carter. Waldo and Ackermann provide a clear and concise chapter on the confusing conditions known as epidermolytic hyperkeratosis and focal acantholytic dyskeratosis which will be of value to the general pathologist faced with skin biopsies. The book is worthy of a place in every histopathology laboratory, and one looks forward to future volumes. It is cheap at the price.

M. S. DUNNILL

Haemorrhage, Ischaemia and the Perinatal Brain. By Karen E. Pape and J. S. Wigglesworth. (No. 69/70 of a series 'Clinics in Developmental Medicine'.) Foreword by Professor Gordon B. Avery. (Pp. x + 196; illustrated; 15 in colour; £9.50.) London: Spastics International Medical Publications, with Heinemann Medical. 1979.

The authors are experts in the field of perinatal medicine: one a pathologist, the other a neonatal paediatrician. Thus the book has a broad approach which is bound to have a wide appeal to all those concerned with the welfare of the newborn and the avoidance of crippling handicap.

There is a wealth of background

information to be found, supported by a full bibliography. The developmental anatomy and physiology are dealt with in detail, and there are flow diagrams to illustrate the various pathological processes. The value of computer tomography and real-time ultrasonography is stressed.

In the chapter on prevention of haemorrhagic and ischaemic brain damage the authors include a review of the current practical problems and limitations of the service. The value of referral centres, where physiological factors can be carefully monitored and CT screening, etc, carried out under the care of experienced staff is stressed: centres where there is close cooperation with the obstetrician and a pathologist specially interested in this field. Only in this way will knowledge advance and serious handicap be avoided.

There is little one can fault in the book generally. The colour photographs are excellent. All I would say is that I was surprised that the authors, in discussing the minimal part coagulopathy seems to play in relation to IVH, did not bring out the fact that coagulopathy in most instances is associated with, if not heralded by, massive pulmonary haemorrhage. This would reduce cerebral blood flow and congestion of the fine capillaries in the germinal layer, factors important in the aetiology of IVH.

JEAN M. SCOTT

Cadmium Toxicity. (Modern Pharmacology-Toxicology Series, Volume 15.) Edited by J. H. Mennear. (Pp. viii + 224; illustrated; S.Fr.58.00.) New York: Marcel Dekker Inc. 1979.

This book, which is probably of greater value to the biochemist than to the pathologist, contains a wealth of information on topics that include the analytical determination, biochemical toxicity, and environmental flow of cadmium. As in other multi-author works, the various chapters differ in 'readability' and merit, but most are admirably concise in presentation; those by G. S. Probst ('Cadmium absorption, distribution and excretion in mammals') and H. N. MacFarland ('Pulmonary effects of cadmium') are additionally commendable for their critical assessments of the relevant literature. W. F. Bousquet also critically reviews the cardiovascular and renal effects of cadmium but leaves the reader

to decide whether the metal is a significant factor in human hypertension and cardiovascular disease. An incomprehensible statement in this chapter (p. 140), on the relationship between cadmium, ascorbic acid, and atherosclerotic heart disease in smokers, presumably is due to typographical error.

Of the other chapters of pathological interest, that by D. Malcolm, a brief review of cadmium as a carcinogen, contains a number of inaccuracies in its literature-summary, while that by S. R. Rohrer, S. M. Shaw, and D. C. Van Sickle ('Cadmium teratogenicity and placental transfer') records the cadmium content of human placentas as determined by atomic absorption techniques as 60 μCi .

M. WEBB

Thyroid Cancer. By Larry D. Greenfield. (Pp. 267; illustrated; £56.25.) Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. 1978.

Thyroid Cancer is not a single entity but a spectrum of different histological tumours, each with a characteristic natural history; diagnosis and treatment must therefore be tailored to the individual tumour types.

This comprehensive and attractive volume will prove compulsive reading for all clinicians with a responsibility for investigating or treating such patients. The multidisciplinary approach to each variety of thyroid tumour is inherently emphasised. The bibliography following each chapter is extensive and up to date.

The price will necessarily exclude it from becoming the proud possession of every thyroidologist but it will undoubtedly become accepted as a major work of reference.

C. L. HARMER

An Introduction to Histotechnology. By G. G. Brown. (Pp. xiii + 453; illustrated; £15.90.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1978.

This is essentially a practical handbook of histological technique written by a technologist for the American laboratory worker. Like most American publications it is well bound and clearly and succinctly presented. The expected topics are covered and include fixation, processing, microtomy, microscopy, and a wide range of staining methods for tissue structures and

inclusions. Surprisingly, however, there is no mention of methods for the APUD system, exfoliative cytology or immunohistology. The author writes well and is obviously experienced but his choice of technique (on this side of the Atlantic at least) will not receive universal approbation, and—a more serious deficiency—the techniques are not consistently linked with an attempted rationale. For example, the van Gieson mechanism was exhaustively discussed whereas that for the methyl green-pyronin and Jones' hexamine silver techniques was not given at all! In an otherwise explicit description of dyes and their reactions there is no mention of current thinking which implicates hydrogen bonding and van der Waals forces reactions.

This is a small book with a page size of 9 × 6 inches, and as the author is trying to cover the whole subject, the information contained therein is of a superficial nature

only. This fact, allied to its often rather dated approach to the subject, is likely to result in a limited appeal, certainly in Britain, but I suspect also in the country for which it was primarily intended.

H. COOK

Development of Therapeutic Agents for Sickle Cell Disease. INSERM Symposium No. 9. Proceedings of the International Meeting on Development of Therapeutic Agents for Sickle Cell Disease, Paris, 19-21 July 1978. Edited by J. Rosa, Y. Beuzard, and J. Hercules. (Pp. xviii + 262; illustrated; \$44.00.) Amsterdam, New York, Oxford: North-Holland Publishing Company. 1979.

The early trials of urea and cyanate as therapeutic agents for the prevention of sickling were clinically disappointing but they stimulated much research into the mechanism of sickling and its prevention.

Improved techniques for the study of HbS polymerisation were also developed to allow new pharmacological agents to be tested *in vitro* before clinical trial evaluation.

This book, which consists of the papers presented at a satellite symposium of the XVII International Congress of Hematology held in Paris in 1978, gives a detailed account of these new techniques and of the biochemistry and pharmacology of antisickling compounds. The text is highly specialised but laboratory scientists will be interested in techniques such as laser and x-ray diffractometry, the kinetics of haemoglobin S gelation, and the study of the sickle-cell membrane. The scientist involved in clinical trials will find invaluable data on the potential *in vivo* and extracorporeal use of the newer antisickling compounds. Recommended for the specialist and the research worker.

J. STUART