

in the political and social structure of that country. The murder itself was carried out in the plain view of thousands of people watching television or listening to the radio, and numerous photographs were taken, both still and in motion, during the procedures leading up to, at, and after the incident. In spite of the assemblage of information and recording sources, the murder is still, in the minds of most people, an unresolved problem obscured by deceit, corruption, and ineptitude. We in the medicolegal field in the United Kingdom should trust that such ineptitude would not be found in Britain. Nevertheless, this book, and the incident, should be regarded as a constant reminder for those involved in such cases of the importance of team-work and powers of observation in that, as far as legal medicine and pathology are concerned, politics should not be considered. The book concerns itself only with the medicolegal aspects of the late President's assassination. It is not intended to explore the details of international relations—federal police or spies in the domestic and foreign scene—but is based primarily on an evaluation of the available medicolegal facts by a forensic scientist and a practising death investigator. After studying all the facts the author arrives at what he considers to be some inevitable conclusions, namely, that the version of the assassination outlined in the Warren Commission was untenable and that more than one person fired at, and hit, President Kennedy. He finally concludes that it is not even certain that Lee Harvey Oswald actually fired the rifle in question. It would be totally erroneous for the reviewer to pass his own personal judgment on this interesting and well-written document, but he merely suggests that all those interested in reviewing various murders and assassinations could well benefit by reading this recent book on the assassination of President Kennedy.

J. M. CAMERON

Atlas of the Ultrastructure of Human Breast Diseases. By Ali Ahmed. (Pp. 183; illustrated; £20.00.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1978.

It is now widely accepted that electron microscopy has an important role to play in diagnostic histopathology. However, whereas at the level of light microscopy there is a vast array of specialised 'bench books' to aid the pathologist in making a diagnosis, only a few of these include the

ultrastructural appearances. Hence this atlas will be a welcome addition to the pathologist's armamentarium.

It covers all the common (and some of the less common) breast lesions and correlates the appearances at light and EM level with good illustrations and brief descriptions. This should not only help pathologists who are struggling to interpret appearances at EM level, but also once the ultrastructural appearances of the various lesions have been understood it should be a help in the interpretation of the light microscope appearances. In particular, in the case of benign and malignant breast lesions, the relationships of the epithelial and myoepithelial cells are of great interest.

One small criticism is that there is no mention at all of the techniques used to prepare the sections illustrated. Although routine paraffin-embedding and H + E staining are so well known as to need no explanation the techniques used to prepare the electron micrographs and toluidine blue (presumably 1 μ resin) sections are likewise completely unexplained.

Since breast pathology provides a sizable part of the work of most surgical biopsy services this atlas will be a useful reference work for all electron histopathologists.

JULIE CROW

Immunology Simplified. By T. R. Bowry. (Pp. vi + 223; illustrated; £2.50.) Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1978.

How successfully a subject can be simplified really depends upon how much is known about it. An author can contrive to be both clear and brief about a subject which is well understood, but where there is uncertainty these qualities may be achieved only at the expense of expressing honest doubt. In describing the basic principles of immunology, Dr Bowry has produced a pleasing, balanced, and well-illustrated account. As an introductory text, this book gives a perfectly satisfactory outline of matters such as lymphocyte heterogeneity, antibody structure and complement. Dogmatism is both unavoidable and acceptable. Indeed, the author has wisely eschewed discussion of more recent developments such as the detailed mechanism by which antigen is presented to and triggers different lymphocyte subpopulations. In such contexts simplicity and doubt can certainly not be

reconciled, but there is no point in attempting this in a book designed for an elementary readership. However, when the author comes to deal with clinical matters she is often sadly out of touch, and her simplicity becomes dangerously misleading. To cite specific points, there is no evidence that lymphoma cells become secondarily infected by virus because these cells are unable to synthesise interferon. One would like to know the basis for her belief that 10⁸ malignant cells is the critical number above which immunotherapy can be expected to fail, or that Burkitt's lymphoma and the other neoplasms mentioned in her list share common neoantigens. There is no clear evidence that rheumatoid arthritis predisposes to malignant disease. The relation between IgA deficiency and immediate hypersensitivity is purely theoretical. Transfer factor no longer warrants such serious consideration as a therapeutic agent. Such statements can sow misconceptions in the minds of the wholly inexperienced reader. Only in relation to parasitic diseases does the author show any particular familiarity, no doubt because she works in East Africa. On balance, therefore, this book can be recommended to uninformed readers as an inexpensive, easily read introduction to basic but not clinical immunology. It cannot be regarded as a suitable course or reference book.

A. M. DENMAN

Diagnosis of Liver Diseases: An Illustrated Textbook. Edited by H. Wallnöfer, E. Schmidt, and F. W. Schmidt. (Pp. 298; illustrated—99 in colour; £43.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1977.

This book attempts to describe the aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation, and biochemical, immunological, laparoscopic, scintigraphic, sonographic, angiographic, and pathological changes (including ultrastructural changes) found in most of those liver diseases commonly encountered. It broadly achieves this aim but at the expense of being superficial and non-critical in some areas. This is particularly so in the sections on electron microscopic and laparoscopic appearances of the liver.

The book is, on the whole, accurate, and the translator has done a good job in converting the original German text into very readable English. Particularly praiseworthy are the extremely high-quality colour plates of laparoscopic appearances