of the liver. There is also an extensive list of references, but the usefulness to an English-speaking readership is diminished by the undue emphasis given to articles written in German.

This book will be valuable in introducing trainee pathologists and clinicians to the variety of techniques available for the investigation of liver disease, and I therefore recommend it for all groups interested in hepatology. At £43.00 it will not appeal to the casual reader.

J. O'D. MCGEE

Pathology of Tropical and Extraordinary Diseases. Volume 1 and Volume 2. Edited by Chapman H. Binford and Daniel H. Connor. (Volume 1—Pp. xxiii + 339; illustrated; \$15.00; Volume 2—Pp. xxiii + 356; illustrated; \$20.00.) Washington, DC: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1976.

Like all the Atlases produced by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, this is a book of the highest quality; 44 authors, 1623 black-and-white illustrations and 276 colour illustrations give an indication of the scope. In general, space occupied by illustrations is twice that of the text. The brief text is along standard lines—definitions, synonyms, history, geographical distribution and epidemiology, clinical features, pathology, diagnosis, and treatment. Usually each chapter is followed by half-a-dozen or so references. The pictures, however, are superb. Indeed, the colours are often too lurid and the examples sometimes so florid as to be quite untypical. For example, the photograph of Kaposi's sarcoma is so gross that one is hard pressed to recognise that it is the foot that is involved. Sixteen lines of text suggest that the histological diagnosis is simple. Some of the exotica described are: rhinoscleroma—probably due to *klebsiella rhinoscleromatis*, most prevalent in Russia; sago palm disease—caused by an uncultured and unclassified Gram-positive bacillus. Even the home of a patient with Chagas' disease is depicted. Sometimes one feels that the editors have been too liberal—three pages and seven illustrations of 'indigenous leprosy in the nine-banded armadillo'.

However, it is a fascinating picture book and will be of increasing importance as more and more tropical and extraordinary disease flies into the UK clinics and hospitals.

E. A. WRIGHT

Scanning Electron Microscopy/1978/I (Physical and Technical). (Pp. xiv + 898; \$34.) **Scanning Electron Microscopy/1978/II (Biological).** (Pp. xviii + 1134; \$37.50. Complete set comprising both volumes \$61.50.) Edited by R. P. Becker and O. Johari. Scanning Electron Microscopy, Inc, Box 66507, AMF O'Hare, Ill. 60666, USA.

These two volumes provide the best available statement of the current status of the techniques and application of scanning electron microscopy. Volume I is concerned predominantly with instrumentation and the physical aspects of scanning electron microscopy. The medical scientist is likely to find Volume II of greater immediate interest. Here one can find an up-to-date review of the impregnation techniques which can eliminate the need for metallic coating of specimens; there are detailed comparisons of the results of different drying procedures; one can see the new potential of injection replication techniques when backed by the resolution and depth of focus which scanning electron microscopy alone can provide; there are studies of endothelial cell injury and of malignant cells in effusions; one can see in scanning microscopy the development of a new morphological index for the assessment of the abnormal urinary mucosa and its exfoliated cells. Individual interests vary; my own personal interests in anatomy and pathology were stimulated by over 20 papers which held some particular fascination.

The annual meetings of which this journal forms the record are held in April. Papers submitted by January are critically reviewed by multiple readers, amended where necessary by the authors, and published less than four months later, complete with the dialogue between reviewers and authors; and yet, despite the remarkable speed of publication, the volumes are well printed and bound. These volumes represent excellent value for money and are an indispensable reference source for anyone interested in the ever-growing biomedical applications of scanning electron microscopy.

P. G. TONER

Pathology of Peripheral Nerve. By Arthur K. Asbury and Peter C. Johnson. (Pp. xiii + 311; illustrated; £15.00.) Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1978.

The considerable interest shown in peri-

pheral nerve disorders over the past 15 or 20 years has expectedly produced a number of books devoted to this subject, some good, some better. This is certainly one of the better productions. It is of historical importance that many of the advances in knowledge emanated from clinical neurologists who took it upon themselves to explore the questions arising from patients with peripheral neuropathy by recourse to pathological studies on nerve biopsy specimens and at necropsy, and by experimental observations in animals. Arthur Asbury was one of the first in this field and he has remained in the forefront. In this book he is joined by Peter Johnson, both of whom were taught by Raymond Adams, who has contributed so much to so many aspects of neurology and neuropathology. The book is comprehensive, authoritative, clearly written, and beautifully illustrated. It can be wholeheartedly recommended.

P. K. THOMAS

The Elemental Composition of Human Tissues and Body Fluids. By G. V. Iyengar, W. E. Kollmer, and H. J. M. Bowen. (Pp. xviii + 151; 130 tables; DM 58.) Weinheim, New York: Verlag Chemie. 1978.

In recent years the development of practical methods for analysing mineral elements has led to much interest in trace metals in man and in the contamination of his environment by a variety of elements.

This book is a compilation of data for tissues and body fluids cited from the literature. The citations have been selected with care and refer to the elemental composition of healthy adults. The introduction is in English and German.

The data are presented in a series of tables, one for each tissue and fluid. Each table covers many elements and gives the concentrations reported, the methods used, and the references.

This reference book will be of much value to research workers in a variety of fields, and it is highly recommended.

B. E. CLAYTON

Clinical Haematology in Medical Practice, 4th edition. Edited by D. Penington, B. Rush, and P. Castaldi. (Pp. xiv + 833; £16.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1978.

Earlier editions of this well-known book provided a compact, readable introduc-