Book reviews

of lymphoma; remind yourself, yet again, of the defects in Niemann-Pick and Gaucher's disease plus a long list of other romantic sounding metabolic disorders and see laid out on one page the classification of glomerulonephritis. This volume is a mine of information, vital to basic pathology, but not perhaps in the immediate diagnostic sense. Within its range fall chapters on lysosomes, atherosclerosis, and biological tumour markers as well as descriptive accounts on germ cell tumours, tropical pathology, and non-rheumatic cardiac valve disease. All the contributors are leaders in their fields, and only the really 'morbid' anatomist could fail to enjoy this edition.

A. B. PRICE

Clinics in Haematology. Volume 7, Number 3, October 1978, 'Aplastic Anaemia'. Guest Editor: E. Donnall Thomas. (Pp. 212; illustrated; £8.25—Single issue.) London, Philadelphia, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1978.

Like other issues in this series, the present volume consists of a number of papers written by experts which reflect their own special research interest in one aspect of the subject under review; they are most likely to appeal to the reader who already has a good background knowledge of the topic.

This issue summarises much of what has been written about aplastic anaemia in the last five years, and discusses in some detail the use of techniques, such as *in vitro* marrow culture, which are at last giving an insight into the pathophysiology of the disease. The title is somewhat misleading, because the editor includes (admittedly interesting) sections on immune thrombocytopenia, Felty's syndrome, and even the 'lazy leucocyte syndrome' which should be sharply distinguished from pluripotent stem cell failure. Having elected to include selective cytopenias, it is perhaps disappointing that pure red cell aplasia receives only two pages or so. Nevertheless several of the chapters are excellent: particularly noteworthy are those by Adamson on the pharmacological stimulation of marrow function, and Rosse, who gives an interesting clinicopathological study of PNH. Storb and Thomas give a brief but authoritative account of the present state of bone marrow transplantation, while Gardner describes his extensive personal experience in the use of androgen therapy over 20 years.

Perhaps the most provocative chapter is that by Speck and his colleagues, who have used anti-lymphocyte globulin to produce remissions in aplastic anaemia. If confirmed, this will provide an important therapeutic alternative to bone marrow transplantation, and this work has already supported other evidence that some cases of marrow aplasia are due to autoimmune reactions which inhibit the outgrowth of haemopoietic precursor cells.

C. G. GEARY

Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy. Selected Papers from the Second World Congress of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy. Edited by E. Burghardt, E. Holzer, and J. A. Jordan. (Pp. xiv + 146; illustrated: £14.00.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1978.

This collection of selected papers might have merited attention if published within six months of the Congress which it records. It appears, however, three years after that Congress and, indeed, several months after the Third Congress. This is an inexcusable delay and one that has resulted in a loss of freshness and excitement from the few worthwhile papers of pathological interest that it contains. Thus, the splendidly iconoclastic onslaught on the concept of dysplasia by Koss has already been published elsewhere while the surveys of the epidemiology of cervical cancer by Miller and Pauli and the detailing of the spatial distribution of cervical epithelial abnormalities by Holzer tread over what may well have once been virgin soil but is now firmly trodden ground. Excellent texts are now available on the cervix, and I imagine that few pathologists will wish to pay the outrageous price of £14 for this slim volume which time has staled.

H. FOX

Pathobiology: How Disease Happens. By Frances K. Widmann. (Pp. xi + 401; illustrated; \$12.50.) Boston: Little, Brown. 1978.

The 401 pages of this soft-covered book include 10 chapters covering general topics such as 'Tissues and Tissue Responses to Injury', 'Inflammation and Repair', 'Infectious Disease', and 'Genetic and Metabolic Diseases'. There are 42 pages of glossary and an index. The subject matter covers selected aspects of biology, physiology, genetics, and general pathology. The author, in his preface, suggests

that the book is aimed at 'students in the health professions'. It is too superficial for medical students and attempts too much for nurses or physiotherapists. The 21 case histories, ranging from 4 to 12 lines long, are a good idea, but often their complexity seems confusing. The case history illustrating 'Inflammation and Repair' is of a chronic alcoholic with diabetes mellitus who has 'classic' pneumococcal pneumonia followed by cardiac arrest, aspiration of gastric contents, 'general' pneumonia, right-sided (lung) abscess, and dies from 'progressively ineffective oxygen exchange and increasing cardiac failure'!

In one paragraph of the chapter on the circulatory system 'arteriosclerosis', 'atherosclerosis', and 'medical sclerosis' are all used but it is not clear whether the author thinks these are all aspects of the same process or are separate entities.

The black-and-white photographs are frequently difficult to understand. Excessive jargon irritates.

Too much has been attempted. This has resulted in a superficial, overfilled, and often confused text.

E. A. WRIGHT

Atlas of Pathologic Anatomy. By Wilhelm Doerr, Gerhild Schumann, and Günter Ule. (Pp. x + 307; 874 colour illustrations; £37.00.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1978.

On my bookshelf is a collection of beautiful books on art. I enjoy owning them but I hardly ever look at them. I feel this atlas will be placed alongside. Idly turning the pages is a pleasure, and the reproduction of myotonia dystrophica stained with a Masson-Goldner, or the mount of osteoarthritis of the spine stained with van Gieson, could be hung in any modern art gallery at a fraction of the cost of the more usual exhibits. However, it is difficult to appreciate the practical value of this atlas. In their stimulating and philosophical foreword the authors hope that after the pleasure of the initial glances 'foci of crystallisation' will emerge. In their attempt to preserve the complete image of the pathology of an organ (the Gestalt) they have opted throughout for highly stylised gross pictures and whole mount sections. It is this very style that prevents the further 'crystallisation' of interest. The gross pictures are nearly all set on black with the organs given artificial red/gold overtones. The low-power whole mounts have a strong red/mauve colour bias. The occasional