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

high-power microphotograph is excellent as is the section on neuropathology, and in the latter more natural tones have been used. Because of this the pathological changes in the brain are more realistic, so it is frustrating that with the artistic efforts that have gone into the whole book this success could not be more widespread.

The captions and text are brief and functional, if occasionally misleading. As the atlas is designed for students and junior clinicians I would not quarrel too much with the selection of material. However, at this level few will be able to afford this undoubted 'work of art'. It is a book for collectors, alternatively one to receive as a prize or be given to review.

A. B. PRICE

Immunisation. By George Dick. (Pp. 152; illustrated; £3.50.) London, Fort Lee, NJ: Update Publications. 1978.

This book is a sound concise guide to all who need advice on immunisation. There are two introductory chapters on vaccines and schedules followed by nine chapters on specific diseases including the epidemiology and the history of immunisation against each disease. Each vaccine is discussed with details of efficacy, contraindications, and future developments. The book concludes with four chapters on vaccines for travel, vaccines for selective use, passive immunisation, and immunisation in tropical countries.

Professor Dick considers the scientific background critically and states the reasons for his personal views where they differ from official policy. This is one of those rare books that will appeal equally to the consultant, student, microbiologist, and clinician. I suggest that you keep your personal copy under 'lock and key' otherwise it is likely to be 'borrowed' forever.

H. B. VALMAN

Tumours. Basic Principles and Clinical Aspects. By C. J. Louis. (Pp. vi + 334; illustrated; £4.95.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1978.

This is yet another in the current trend to produce specialist introductory booklets for medical students.

The book is well written and is broadly divided into two sections, the first half dealing with introductory definitions and a comprehensive synopsis of current knowledge in the fields of both experimental and human cancer biology. The

latter section covers some of the salient histopathological features of the more common human tumours.

Both science and medical graduates wishing to enter either clinical or experimental oncology will find the first half of the book a very good introduction to current trends with adequate up to date references for further reading. The 'average' medical student, however, would find the majority of the text, although of great interest, of excessive factual content, and this section makes the book unsuitable for recommendation as a standard undergraduate text.

The final chapters provide the reader with a concise account of some of the more common tumours and would provide the medical student with a more than adequate knowledge of the subject with which to satisfy the examiners.

In general, the book fails in its aim to be suitable for the average medical student but must be recommended for those graduates in multiple disciplines intending to make a career in oncology.

B. GUSTERSON

Immunobiology of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Edited by G. F. Brooks, E. C. Gotschlich, K. K. Holmes, W. D. Sawyer, and F. E. Young. (Pp. xii + 400; illustrated; \$15.) Washington: American Society for Microbiology. 1978.

This volume comprises 71 papers given at a conference in San Francisco in 1978. They cover a wide field, which includes genetics and susceptibility to antibiotics, cellular antigens, pathogenicity mechanisms, serotyping, the immune response and prospects for the development of a vaccine, and serological methods of diagnosis. Many are by leading investigators and they provide an excellent guide to present knowledge of a rapidly developing field. Some are of specialised interest, but many, especially those on sensitivity to antibiotics, will be of interest to general microbiologists. The book is inexpensive and well produced and should be a useful addition to departmental libraries.

A. E. WILKINSON

Notice

Technicon Award 1979

Technicon Instruments Company at Basingstoke are pleased to announce their intention to make awards to the total value of £1,000 in 1979. There will be two awards: (a) for open competition, value £750, and (b) for candidates under 35, value £250. The topic for the 1979 awards is: 'Pathology measurements closer to the patient?'

Candidates must be working in the United Kingdom on 15 September 1979. Candidates may be of any age or nationality, and joint submissions will be accepted.

The final date for receipt of submissions will be Saturday 15 September 1979.

Application forms are obtainable from: Miss Gillian Haynes, Technicon Instruments Co. Ltd, Evans House, Hamilton Close, Basingstoke, Hants. (0256) 29181.