for the measurement of low molecular weight haptens such as drugs, by inhibition of immunoprecipitation, are put forward in the last chapter.

In general, this is a readable and useful book, particularly for workers using nephelometry whether for routine clinical assays or for research. It provides an important insight into the history and background of what must surely become one of the most important techniques in protein quantitation.

J. T. WHICHER

Immunologic Monitoring of the Transplant Patient. Edited by C. R. Stiller, J. B. Dossetor, N. R. StC. Sinclair, and F. T. Rapaport. (Pp. xix + 364; illustrated; £25.00.) New York, San Francisco, London: Grune and Stratton. 1978.

This book is the hard-cover edition of the *Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Immunologic Monitoring of the Transplant Patient* held in London, Ontario in 1977. The editors are to be congratulated on the way in which they organised all the material—the contributions of more than 200 authors. The papers cover three major topics. Under the heading 'Mechanism of alloresponsiveness' are also grouped papers on the genetics of HLA, the mechanism of immunoregulation, the immune response to transplantation antigens, and the factors affecting the outcome of the graft in kidney transplantation. The section on 'The methods for the measurement of pretransplant sensitization' is divided into cell-mediated responses, antidonor antibody responses, and tests of immunologic competence. In a summing up at the end of this section it is pointed out that a positive complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) test for donor T lymphocytes is a contraindication to kidney transplantation and that a positive lymphocyte-mediated cytotoxicity test is a relative contraindication. The role of B cell antibodies remains to be elucidated but a positive CDC for donor B lymphocytes is not a contraindication to renal transplantation. The section on 'The monitoring of the post transplant immune responses' deals again with the cell-mediated antibody-mediated aspects and with the measurement of immunosuppression. In the summary of this section, it is pointed out that immunologic monitoring is now an established part of the management of renal allograft recipients. In a concluding paper on

'Perspectives in patient monitoring', it is admitted that prediction of graft rejection will not by itself lead to better survival but that understanding the pathology of a process has often proved an essential step along the path towards its prevention. The book can be recommended to clinical pathologists for browsing.

SYLVIA D. LAWLER

Recent Advances in Cancer Research: Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, and Tumor Virology. Edited by Robert C. Gallo. Volume I (Pp. 263; illustrated; £51.75.) Volume II (Pp. 227; illustrated; £46.50.) Florida: CRC Press. 1978.

The full title of these two volumes indicates their scope and also the viewpoint of their editor. In a foreword he regrets the absence of chapters on cell-hybridisation experiments, cytogenetic studies in human neoplasia, clonal aspects of neoplasia, the biochemistry of the cell cycle, and growth-promoting factors. Nevertheless most of the recent fundamental work that has led to a better understanding of oncogenesis is here with a major emphasis on tumour virology. That is justified by the intricacies and implications of cell-virus interactions, by knowledge of proviruses, oncogenes and the inter-species transmission of tumour viruses; all of these are well described, and the different strands of evidence for viral involvement in human tumours are analysed. Perhaps the best summary is from the foreword, which refers to a 'complex picture which suggests that if the viral-related information is etiologically relevant there is no one 'human cancer virus' or human leukaemia virus. Rather, by integrating into the host DNA, a variety of RNA tumour viruses alter control of cellular genes important to growth and differentiation'.

But it is not all concerned with virology. Volume 1 also contains excellent introductory chapters on other aspects of carcinogenesis, on Regulation of Leukocyte Differentiation and Leukaemia as a Disorder of Differentiation (Moore), and on Conformational Control of Cell and Tumour Growth (Folkmann). The price is high, but these volumes are valuable sources of knowledge to those seeking to understand the nature of cancer.

H. E. M. KAY

Current Topics in Immunology Series No. 9. HLA and H-2 Basic Immunogenetics. Biology and Clinical Relevance. By Hilliard Festenstein and Peter Démant. (Pp. xii + 212; illustrated; £9.00.) London: Edward Arnold. 1978.

British Medical Bulletin. Volume 34, No. 3. September 1978. **The HLA System** (Pp. xvii + 111; £2.00.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1978.

The HLA antigens and the associated products of the adjacent genes—probably hundreds of genes in about one-thousandth of the whole genome—form a system of great complexity and exceptional biological importance. This has been reflected in a spate of publications on the subject.

The HLA System—Vol. 34, No. 3, 1978 of the *British Medical Bulletin*—brings up to date the inventory and mapping of its components, methods of typing, matching for transplantation, and the association of HLA-types with different diseases. The issue is edited by W. F. Bodmer, who also contributes, with J. C. Bodmer, an admirably clear section on the evolution and function of the HLA system.

A similar clarity is achieved by Festenstein and Démant through a good introduction on transplantation immunity and by describing also the analogous H-2 system of the mouse.

Both these publications can be recommended to those who wish to keep up to date with this fast-moving topic. For the general pathologist the shorter and cheaper BMB issue should be adequate: those who need to know the basis of immunology in greater detail—research-workers, transplanters, geneticists, etc—may prefer 'HLA and H-2'.

H. E. M. KAY