growing importance of platelet, leucocyte, and serum antigens, a whole new chapter is devoted to these. Practically every chapter has been updated. Noticeably improved are sections dealing with complement, the low-ionic-strength blood grouping techniques, and the serum groups. As only 50 more pages have been added since the fifth edition, there has been, of necessity, some curtailment of discussions on certain topics, but this is compensated for by 10 more pages of references so that this book remains an excellent starting point for anyone wishing to trace a blood transfusion subject through the literature.

The book must be heavy going for those who do not profess to specialise in blood transfusion but every clinician should be encouraged to read at least Chapters 2 and 3, which deal so expertly with blood component therapy.

It would be easy to cite one or two important papers which should have received a mention but the reviewer would prefer to comment on the incredible performance of the author, sustained over such a long period. One is left wondering how Professor Mollison finds time to cut his grass and prune his roses.

W. J. JENKINS

Systemic Pathology. 2nd edition. Volume 4. Urinary System, Reproductive System, Breasts, Endocrine System. 38 authors. Edited by W. St. C. Symmers. (Pp. viii + 700 + Index Pp. 84; illustrated; £40.00.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1978.

The fourth volume of the new edition of *Systemic Pathology* is the largest but not the last. Despite the original intention to complete in four volumes there are still two more to come. In this, there are sections of great importance to all histopathologists—gynaecological pathology, breasts, kidneys, and endocrines.

The major change since the last edition is the expansion and re-writing of the section on the kidneys by K. A. Porter. The features of glomerulonephritis are clearly set out in short paragraphs describing the changes seen by light and electron microscopy together with the characteristic findings of immunofluorescence. There are many new electron micrographs and illustrations of immunofluorescent changes. An enlarged section on renal histopathology in systemic diseases will also be found to be useful. Criticisms can be only very minor, and in

the breast section photomicrographs of one disease sometimes appear on pages with headings and texts of others; infiltrating lobular carcinoma is mentioned only in passing, and medullary carcinoma of breast with lymphoid stroma is not found as a separate entity.

This volume increases the enviable reputation of *Systemic Pathology* for readability combined with quickly accessible reference information. The careful editing throughout and the excellent index, prepared by the editor and his wife, add lustre to the overall excellence of this work.

R. A. B. DRURY

Chromogenic Peptide Substrates. Chemistry and Clinical Usage. Edited by M. F. Scully and V. V. Kakkar. (Pp. 288; illustrated; £14.00.) Edinburgh, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

This small book is a record of the International Symposium on Chromogenic Substrates, in London, in October 1977. It is divided into four sections: fundamental considerations, measurement of coagulation factors, measurement of fibrinolytic factors, and measurement of inhibitors of coagulation and fibrinolysis, and thus covers almost every aspect of chromogenic substrates from history and methodology to the expectations for future development. For the research worker and the haematologist involved with large numbers of coagulation factor assays, the book is an essential introduction to a new and promising field. Many interesting points can be found in the discussion which has obviously been faithfully recorded; the English is at times bizarre but almost always understandable.

Warmly recommended to those in the field of haemostasis.

M. BROZOVIC

CRC Handbook Series in Clinical Laboratory Science. Section C Pathology, Volume I. Editor in Chief: D. Seligson. Section Editor: R. Yesner. Volume Editor: B. H. Waksman. (Pp. 351; illustrated; £43.50.) Florida: CRC Press Inc. 1978.

This book is a collation of data relating to the immunological investigation of patients with immune disorders. It consists for the most part of tables and figures culled from publications in specialist journals, monographs, and textbooks. Most of these illustrations are presented in the original form without commentary or modification

although some appear to have additional footnotes suitable for publication in this volume. These illustrations are interspersed with brief statements explaining the rationale for their inclusion and the relevance of the reproduced data for the practice of clinical immunology. The final result is an unconventional medley of graphic immunology in a style which resembles that employed by many purveyors of encyclopaedias of 'general knowledge'. This novel approach certainly gives the book some advantages to which other textbooks of clinical immunology cannot aspire. If there are scientists or clinicians who have coffee tables in their departments which need embellishing, this book would be perfect for the purpose, since it is admirably suited for browsing. Lecturers in a hurry to prepare material at short notice on unfamiliar topics will also find it indispensable because the information for such purposes is suitably displayed for photographic reproductions and the basic information is also interspersed with experimental observations from publications of greater or lesser degrees of obscurity which can give their talk the verisimilitude of deeper familiarity with the subject.

More seriously, one should consider what advantages this kind of presentation has over more conventional textbooks. In considering established data and procedures which are now fully embodied in the practice of immunology both at the bedside and in the laboratory, this book has the benefits of clarity and precision. Unfortunately there are many aspects of experimental immunology which may never become part of clinical practice or which have already fallen by the wayside. It is the responsibility of authors and editors to try to sieve information of lasting value from the merely ephemeral. In this respect the book is a conspicuous failure. There are dozens of pages reproducing speculative, experimental data which were perfectly suitable for learned journals but which have no place in a volume purporting to present immunology for the practising clinician. Many of the experiments concerning transfer factor, blocking factors in experimental cancer, and the detection of lymphokines are already passing into oblivion. Editorial comment is either non-existent or consists of simple, facile statements such as (page 16) 'Immunologic tests particularly of cell-mediated immunity to tissue antigens, are of primary importance in a large number of auto-immune diseases recog-