grafts. There is a section on experimental work on the treatment of aplastic anaemia by ALG and a section on clinical bone marrow transplantation. This covers histocompatibility testing and the H-Y immunity phenomenon. The clinical results of marrow grafting for aplasia, leukaemia, and immune deficiency are reported from Seattle, UCLA, and Paris, but they are already out of date.

The final section of the book is a mixed bag called 'Advances in Experimental Haematology' covering a variety of topics including preservation of dog granulocytes and diffusion chamber cultures.

All in all this is a specialised book providing suitable reading for the growing number of experimental haematologists concerned with investigating new approaches to understanding and treating leukaemia, aplastic anaemia, and immune deficiencies. It is a good memento of the conference but, like all proceedings, its useful life must be measured in months not years. It is not for the uninitiated who would do better to wait for a definitive review on the last decade of experimental haematological research.

A. J. BARRETT

Tumors of the Cardiovascular System. By H. A. McAllister, Jr. and J. J. Fenoglio, Jr. (Pp. 141; illustrated; \$5.) Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1978.

This fascicle is part of the second series of tumour pathology and is based on the material collected by Dr W. C. Manion with many new examples and entities added in the years following his untimely death.

This volume is divided into four major sections: primary benign tumours and cysts, primary malignant and metastatic tumours of the heart and pericardium. The fourth section deals with primary tumours of major blood vessels.

The text is succinct throughout and types of tumour, their location, the variety of clinical manifestations together with the number of patients are clearly tabulated. Wherever the origin of a neoplasm is controversial this is logically discussed. Diagnostic aspects are emphasised and the World Health Organization international classification of tumours is closely followed. One has become accustomed to the excellence of the many illustrations in these publications and the present fascicle is no exception.

This publication is a 'must' for all practising pathologists, not only those concerned with the study of the heart but every worker dealing with surgical and necropsy material.

E. G. J. OLSEN

Cancer Registration and its Techniques. Edited by R. MacLennan, C. Muir, R. Steinitz, and A. Winkler. (Pp. xii + 235; illustrated; Sw.fr. 40.) Geneva: WHO. 1978.

In the foreword to this book John Higginson, director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, says '... Registration (of cancer) is not a sufficient reason to begin an undertaking that requires a long-term investment of effort and funds'. This is a timely warning to those thinking of embarking on the organisation of a new hospital-based or population-based registry, particularly in developing countries. However, the value of cancer registries, whether for their contribution to patient management, health service planning, or for the elucidation of causes, is established and pathologists have played a major role in their initiation and maintenance.

This monograph represents the cumulative experience of many individuals as well as the specialised knowledge of the four authors. The chapters include Planning a Registry, Sources of Patient Information, Case-finding, Input Operations, Classification and Coding of Neoplasms, Output Operations and Reports, Data Processing and Cancer Registration in Developing Countries. This book is an invaluable manual for all concerned with cancer registration or who are interested in cancer epidemiology.

M. S. R. HUTT

The Hospital Laboratory. By R. M. Shuffstall and B. Hemmaplardh. (Pp. xi + 208; illustrated; £8.50.) London: Medical Publishers Ltd. 1979.

This is a book designed primarily for those interested in the organisation of laboratories in America. Unless there is a marked change in management and financial procedures within the NHS the contents will be of only limited relevance to the practice of pathology in this country.

The book is full of management jargon and in parts is extremely verbose. For example, planning is described as 'the

methodical selection of a series of complementary actions for the purpose of pursuing an improved position' while market potential is the 'proven or estimated expenditure for given services in a given locale or as projections of these expenditures contingent upon specific plans and anticipated developments'.

Much of the comment and managerial expertise on planning, organisation, staffing direction, supervision, communication, and personnel relations is self-evident, although there are useful chapters on research and development and quality control. What a pity the latter is not dealt with in considerably more depth!

Chapters on cost control, financial planning, capital budgeting, and pricing are of little use to NHS laboratories although they may prove useful to that small number of private laboratories operating outside the Health Service.

G. W. PENNINGTON

Microbial Disease. The Use of the Laboratory in Diagnosis Therapy and Control. By D. A. J. Tyrrell, I. Phillips, C. Steward Goodwin, and R. Blowers. (Pp. x + 340; illustrated; £16.00.) London: Edward Arnold. 1979.

It is necessary when assessing the value of this book to accept the intention, expressed in the preface to provide to a doctor presented with a clinical problem information on what laboratory tests to initiate, the meaning of results, and the action to take. This is the role the book best plays. It cannot be regarded, and is not intended in any sense, as a textbook of microbiology nor of infectious disease but the authors of necessity have had to maintain the width of scope of their text. The constraints of space, therefore, together with an apparent determination to avoid being accused of leaving out any organism or condition however obscure, have made it difficult to achieve satisfying depth on any subject.

The book is crisp and clear in its technical parts and as topical as is possible in a formal publication, but the more discursive passages are spoiled by errors of grammar and punctuation. The use of a dash to replace the comma and of a semi-colon where a full-stop is indicated is a real irritation.

The book is divided into chapters on each system of the body, and this inevitably is followed by a large section on diseases not confined to one system with

some resultant difficulty in categorisation. There are a number of useful tables and summaries and a good deal of sound sense and distilled experience of real value.

Should sufficient clinicians at some stage of their training feel that it meets their needs, this book will make a worthwhile addition to the publications available.

G. L. GIBSON

Bacteria and Human Disease. By J. M. Slack and I. S. Snyder. (Pp. xii + 484; illustrated; £15.50.) London: YB Medical Publishers Ltd. 1978.

This book begins with a simple and laudable statement of its objectives, and this to impart a working knowledge of bacterial diseases and their causation. Each chapter is prefaced by a succinct overview and ends with a few clinical problems and questions which the student should be able to answer if the preceding pages have been diligently studied. Inbetween the information is fairly up to date and tightly packed. References are not annotated in the text but a short reference list is given at the end of each chapter. The authors include short passages on immunity, pathogenicity, and treatment with each genus, but there is little general discussion of these topics and this may dissatisfy the reader. The chapter on antibiotics was not worth including.

It is difficult to place this book in terms of student requirements. Too detailed for medical students it does not have the right mix for Primary MRCP candidates, and more senior students may find that other textbooks are more suitable to their needs.

D. M. JONES

Mucosal Biopsy of the Gastrointestinal Tract. 2nd Edition. By R. Whitehead. (Pp. xiv + 241; illustrated; £14.) Philadelphia, Toronto, London: W. B. Saunders. 1979.

My best books are on a shelf within arm's reach of the telephone. Here this select collection act as academic liferafts, positioned for easy reference during calls from argumentative clinicians. The first edition of Professor Whitehead's book is on this shelf and will now be replaced by the second edition.

The new edition runs to 241 pages, 39 pages more than the first. This is not quite the increase of 'over one half the original', as claimed in the preface. There are more than 40 new photomicrographs, but sadly the printing is on thinner and, I imagine, cheaper paper. This has reduced the contrast of the illustrations, which are now less distinct than in the original version. No new chapters have been added, and the format is identical with its predecessor. Indeed, no major change was necessary. Most of the additional text takes the form of individual paragraphs with up-to-date references, and each improves the relevant section of the book. There are three parts, as before, covering gastric biopsy, small-intestinal biopsy, and colonic biopsy. In the first part, on gastric biopsy, there is an improved 'overview' of gastritis and its significance plus sections added on gastric polyps and gastric lymphomas. In the second section, dealing with small-intestinal biopsy, a classification of duodenitis has been added. In this part of the book I was disappointed not to find more on jejuneal morphometry, especially the role of lymphocyte counting, and also more on the controversial variants of the small-bowel lymphoma. The latter is perhaps an unjustified complaint for neoplastic disease is beyond the stated scope of the book, though it is a subject closely linked to gluten-sensitive enteropathy. In the third part, on colonic biopsy, the section on precancer in ulcerative colitis is greatly improved, and an interesting discussion on the 'normal biopsy' in Crohn's disease has been added. Perhaps infectious diarrhoea could have had better coverage, and a separate section on the interpretation of colonoscopic biopsy must surely be warranted in the 3rd edition.

Whether the difference between the two editions achieves statistical significance is debatable but all these are minor matters. This is another enjoyable, highly informative, and benign cruise down the gastrointestinal tract.

A. B. PRICE

Notices

International Cancer Research Technology Transfer Programme

The International Union Against Cancer will award 'International Cancer Research Technology Transfer' grants for research on cancer. The available funds are designed to permit investigators of any nationality to visit a research centre or centres abroad for a period not exceeding 28 days. The funds cover travel and living expenses. Additional information and application forms may be obtained from: International Union against Cancer, Conseil-Général 3, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

International Cancer Research Workshop Programme

The International Union Against Cancer will award financial support to enable the organization of International Cancer Research Workshops. The workshop should preferably bring together no more than 12 investigators active in the same field of basic, clinical or behavioural research relevant to cancer. The duration of the workshop should not exceed four days. Funds are intended to cover no less than 30% of the total cost of an approved workshop, up to a maximum of US \$10,000 for each workshop. Applicants must provide a statement that funds from other sources will be available to cover the remaining costs. Closing dates for the receipt of applications are: 1 January—1 March—1 June—1 September. Additional information and application forms may be obtained from: International Union against Cancer, Conseil-Général 3, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

3rd International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Hormones

Cambridge-England, 15-18 September 1980

This symposium will cover the conventional circulating hormones as well as the locally acting paracrine peptides and the peptidergic innervation. The programme will consist mostly of submitted papers with review talks by invited authorities. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 31 March 1980. For further details please write to: Dr S R Bloom or Dr J M Polak, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS UK.