surveyed in the comprehensive and authoritative manner that has been attempted by the present authors, all of whom are themselves active contributors to the field of alkaline phosphatase research. This book will therefore remain a valuable reference work for many years for all who are interested in clinical and indeed other aspects of this enzyme.

DW MOSS

Paediatric Chemical Pathology. Clinical Tests and Reference Ranges. Barbara E Clayton, Peter Jenkins, and Joan M Round. (Pp ix + 164; illustrated; £5·25.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1980.

This book is a list of reference ranges with a short introduction and some method references. Reference ranges are difficult to establish in children and are generally gradually accumulated after clinical classification of the patients has established their 'normality' in the relevant area of their metabolism.

It is not always clear which values in childhood are similar to those in adults. The majority of laboratories have to serve adults as well as children. A clearer indication of those reference values which definitely differ in children would therefore have been valuable. However this book is a valuable list of paediatric reference values from 'GOS' and will be welcomed especially by those in other children's hospitals.

RA HARKNESS

Renal Disease. 4th ed. Ed DAK Black and NF Jones. (Pp xiv + 905; illustrated; £42·50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

This is not a comprehensive textbook on renal disease but is a series of essays written by acknowledged specialists within the field of nephrology, and the fact that this is the fourth edition is in itself evidence of the book's popularity and usefulness. The editors have obtained contributions from 46 worldwide authorities. There are several important new contributions: Maur and Shvil give an up-to-date account of views on the structure and function of the mesangium in health and disease; there is a notable and authoritative plain man's guide to the significance of the complement system in renal disease by Peters and Lachmann; a concise and lucid summary of all aspects of analgesic abuse is given by Gower; paediatric nephrology has a fresh prominence in excellent chapters on obstructive nephropathy and on renal failure in childhood; the wider significance of kidney disorders is brought into focus by Hutt's contribution on geographical pathology. All the chapters are accompanied by copious references.

There is a strong interdisciplinary approach throughout the book, but one notable exception to this occurs in the account of the pathophysiology of acute renal failure, which omits mention of the work of Fry and Cattell on the radiological findings in this condition and their significance in any hypothesis on the pathogenesis of oliguria.

This is an important new edition which deserves a place in every medical library. By today's standards it is not expensive.

MS DUNNILL

Biopsy Pathology of the Small Intestine. FD Lee and PG Toner. (Pp xi + 188; illustrated; £12·00.) Chapman and Hall. 1980.

The advent of peroral small intestinal biopsy revolutionalised the study of malabsorption syndromes. This carefully prepared little volume is intended to guide hospital pathologists through this interesting and sometimes difficult subject. There is a concise account of methods used in handling biopsy material followed by sections on normal appearances and on the assessment of intestinal abnormality. The second part of the book gives brief descriptions of various specific disease processes. The photomicrographs are all relevant and of good technical quality and both scanning and transmission electron micrographs are used freely. This book will be of value as a bench companion to any histopathologist faced with diagnostic problems involving small intestinal biopsies.

MS DUNNILL

Clinical Bacteriology. PW Ross. (Pp 158; illustrated; £2·95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

Dr Ross has based his textbook on an approach to microbiology by diseases rather than by microorganisms. As with most pioneering ventures the book has strong and weak points. Students are likely to enjoy it because of the obvious clinical relevance but it fails to get across the more purely microbiological aspects. With this reservation I believe that the book would provide a useful companion to a course in clinical bacteriology.

The material, particularly the two-thirds devoted to systems, is clearly and simply presented—with the exception of the rag-bag of organisms including viruses and parasites attached to the otherwise excellent diagrams. This is a brave and novel approach and without any doubt fills a gap. I look forward to a second edition that solves the minor problems related to what the book contains and at least gives guidance on what is to be done about what is not there.

IAN PHILLIPS

Plasma Membranes and Disease. Donald FH Wallach. (Pp x + 356; illustrated; £19·60.) Academic Press. 1979.

This monograph clearly shows how omnipresent plasma membrane abnormalities are in all branches of medicine. After an introductory chapter on plasma membrane organisation, illustrated by recent well-chosen examples, subsequent chapters are concerned with neoplasia, haematological disorders, membrane receptor defects ranging from allergy to atherosclerosis, and a chapter on a miscellaneous group of disorders including membrane transport defects. The chapter on intracellular parasitism reflects a recent addition to plasma membrane disorders and the one on therapy and toxicity completes a fascinating aspect of this cell organelle. Because of the encyclopaedic nature of this book it is open to the criticism of being too superficial. Indeed, defects in intestinal transport are given scant coverage, and inborn errors of Fe^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, and Mg^{2+} absorption are not mentioned. Nevertheless the author is to be congratulated on an excellent monograph. Judging by the rate of progress in membrane pathobiology new editions will be needed in the near future.

TJ PETERS

Natural and Induced Cell-mediated Cytotoxicity. Ed G Riethmuller, P Wernet, G Cudkowicz. (Pp xiii + 242; illustrated; $16.00.) Academic Press. 1979.

Cellular immunology moves more rapidly than publishers, so much of this book is at least three years out of date. Preoccupied as immunologists were in 1977 with natural-killer (NK) cells, they fill these