

254: 385). Controls included known IF-IgG positive and negative sera and conjugate alone. The results were assessed by two individuals.

Ten of the 14 sera showed unequivocal positive reactivity at the single dilution tested although the extent of staining varied in individual samples, reflecting differing levels of anti-rubella antibody. The reactivity seen with three additional sera was more difficult to interpret as only a small proportion of infected cells showed weak intracytoplasmic staining. This was, however, absent in negative controls. Only one of the 14 test samples showed no reactivity.

The IF results confirm the ability of ELISA to detect specific rubella antibody in some samples shown to be negative in HI and SRH tests. We do not yet have any information about whether these low levels of antibody are associated with immunity of the patient to rubella infection. We are currently in the process of confirming the incidence of sera that are rubella antibody positive by ELISA and IF but negative by HI and SRH.

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## Book reviews

**Current Methods of Autopsy Practice.** 2nd edition. By J. Ludwig. (Pp. xxii + 724; illustrated; £37.75.) Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1979.

The necropsy seemed to fall into disrepute some years ago in England but there are signs of a revival. This book could be an important member of the resuscitation team even if it only shows how much information can be gained from the study of the cadaver.

It contains a breathtaking amount of information, from an identification chart of 29 different types of heart-valve prosthesis to the normal weights of the seminal vesicles from birth to 15 years. It describes in practical detail all sorts of techniques from the simple opening of the intestine to postmortem cytochemistry and immunopathology, and references are abundant.

Part 1 (226 pages) covers techniques. Part 2 (429 pages) is an encyclopaedia of diseases in chart form, listing procedures and possible findings for each organ. Although much of Part 2 is pretty obvious, I am looking forward to having this volume in the PM room office to keep us a jump ahead of the cleverer clinicians. One's first reaction is that this is an impossibly compendious and probably valueless collectiana of information that is available elsewhere, but after some study I at least came to the conclusion that it could be worth its rather high price.

A. C. HUNT

**Parasite Immunology.** Vol. 1. Edited by R. J. Terry and A. C. Allison. (Pp. 89; £21 per annum.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

Immunologists and parasitologists are increasingly interested in each others' fields, and the days when a paper on immunity to infection was regarded as eccentric are gone for good. At present there is only a single (American) journal in which such papers are collected. This new journal aims to provide another forum. The first issue comprises four papers on helminths and three on protozoa, but, in future, bacterial, fungal, and viral immunology will also be covered. The editorial board inspires confidence that standards will be high. The journal looks

good and is likely to be required reading for all workers involved in immunity to infection, particularly in departments which cannot afford to take more than a few journals.

The launching of a new journal is always hazardous, and one should not be too surprised that the spring number has come out in August. I understand that three more numbers are planned for 1979, following which there will be at least four, and perhaps six, per year, depending on the flow of papers. This being so, the price of £21 (£26 overseas) per annum does not seem unreasonable. All those interested should welcome and support it.

J. H. L. PLAYFAIR

**Mononuclear Phagocytes in the Central Nervous System.** By M. Oehmichen. (Pp. vi + 173; illustrated; DM 68, US\$34.) Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1978.

There is still much to be discovered about the phagocytic cells of the body and not least about those in the central nervous system. Dr Oehmichen has, by radio-labelling and by identification through cell-specific antisera, penetrated a little further into a complex subject. He has reached conclusions on the relationships of blood monocytes to perivascular cells, subarachnoid phagocytes, epileptus cells, and progressive microglial cells, leaving only the resting microglia isolated from this branch of the mononuclear phagocytic system, and he has studied the role of trauma and inflammation on the kinetics of these cells. This is an invaluable book for neuropathologists, of course, but also worth some study by all pathologists, especially those who may have to report on the CSF and those elusive 'CSF cells'.

H. E. M. KAY

**The Liver and Biliary System in Infants and Children.** Edited by R. K. Chandra. (Pp. xii + 341; illustrated; £20.) Edinburgh, London and New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

This 342-page hardback has 19 sections by authors from most parts of the world.

Much of the book is concerned with pathology—chemical, infective, immunological, and anatomical. Most of the sections are written by paediatricians—three only by pathologists but this in no way detracts from its value for the

clinical pathologist. It is a sad reflection on general pathology that the section on the pathological morphology of the liver is the worst in the book, particularly the level of its illustrations. The sections have much overlap so others compensate by being well illustrated but still have that tendency of giving full pages to electron microscope photographs and postage-stamp size areas to low-power microscopy. Several sections cover the problems of diagnosis of liver disease and stress the need for a full workup before attempting liver biopsy. The latter should be done to answer precise questions and only done for metabolic disease when all of the investigatory facilities are available. Each section has an extensive list of references. The index is adequate.

The book covers what the clinical pathologist needs to know today with good sections on the current evaluation of hepatic function, virus diseases, Reye's syndrome, metabolic liver disease, drug-induced damage with a table of effects of different drugs, immunological disease, Indian childhood cirrhosis, and surgical conditions of the biliary tract. It is a book that should find a place in any post-graduate centre where there is a paediatric department.

J. L. EMERY

**Hepatitis B Virus Antigens in Tissues.** By M. B. Ray. (Pp. x + 165; illustrated; £9.95.) Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd. 1979.

The author of this short book, which is based on a PhD thesis, is a member of a pathology unit which has for many years been in the forefront of research on hepatitis B virus antigens in tissues. Correspondingly the book is authoritative and as up to date as can be expected; many of the references are from 1976 and 1977, and some from 1978. In addition, the book contains much unpublished data and provides a combination of literature review and a series of experiments and analyses from the author's own laboratory. The history of the virus and its antigenic components is well surveyed, and techniques for demonstration of virus components in tissues are clearly described and illustrated. Towards the end of the book the author presents his personal hypothesis on the mechanisms of liver-cell damage in acute and chronic hepatitis, with the emphasis on immune complexes involving virus core antigen in acute hepatitis, and on cell-mediated reactions

and cytotoxicity related to the surface antigen in chronic active hepatitis. Much of this section is necessarily speculative and controversial. This is a well set-out, concise and readable book on a topical subject.

P. J. SCHEUER

**General Pathology.** 5th edition. By J. B. Walter and M. S. Israel. (Pp. 701; illustrated; £20.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

The fifth edition of Walter and Israel is bulkier than its predecessor of five years ago, yet it contains only 20 extra pages. On first sight much is familiar, but closer examination shows that there has been detailed rewriting of many parts. New material has been added with new chapters on disorders of metabolism, disorders of nutrition, and disturbances of endocrine function, the last including a section on APUD cells. The accounts of diabetes mellitus and the glycogen-storage diseases are particularly valuable. The group of appendices to the text have been supplemented by a section on the HLA histocompatibility antigens.

The careful editing of the text has also been applied to references. These have been reduced in number and up-dated, and in some chapters they have been usefully supplemented by a few general references.

This well-tries text book may be somewhat weighty for the average undergraduate, but should be of value to the brighter ones. It is particularly useful to pathologists in training and to those further along the road when they are preparing teaching material. The new edition should enhance its reputation.

H. M. CAMERON

**Ocular Pathology.** 3rd edition. By C. H. Greer. (Pp. xii + 281; illustrated; £13.50.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

Pathology has been defined as 'the laboratory science dedicated to advancing understanding of the causes and nature of disease' and now includes five main branches, chemical pathology, microbiology, haematology, histopathology and immunology. It follows that ocular pathology should be a multi-disciplinary speciality in its approach to advancing understanding of diseases that affect the eye, and that the full range of all branches of pathology, including diagnostic and

research aspects, should be concentrated (in combination where appropriate) upon the aetiology and pathogenesis of eye disease. It is therefore most unfortunate that the term 'pathology' should be narrowly used—as is too often the case today—when referring merely to histo-pathology. That is my only major criticism of this book which although entitled *Ocular Pathology* deals almost exclusively with the pathological changes observed by conventional microscopy and should, therefore, have been entitled 'Ocular Histopathology'.

This is the third edition and it is incomparably better than its predecessors providing an up-to-date account of ocular histopathology, and drawing more deeply on recent concepts of pathogenesis, especially in immunology. There is no doubt that it will prove even more popular with its intended readers, namely trainee ophthalmologists and those seeking a guide in this field, and the book can continue to be recommended, but even more strongly than previously.

N. ASHTON

**Medical Microbiology and Pathology for Nurses.** By J. M. Gibson. (Pp. viii + 229; £6.75.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

The stated object of this book is to provide nurses with a sound knowledge of the basic causes of disease. Just how detailed such knowledge need be is certainly a matter of opinion but any author attempting this task should err on the side of generosity rather than frugality depending of course on the relative importance of the particular disease.

This volume may well be too detailed and the chapter on neoplasms certainly so. Textbooks of pathology for nurses need not be as detailed as those for medical students.

While the degree of detail may be a matter for debate, clarity of concept and accuracy are certainly not. This volume contains numbers of errors which fall under these headings. It might have been better to have laid less emphasis on the details of the numerous investigations mentioned and the likely results therefrom and to have paid more attention to the mechanism of the production of the pathological processes, particularly the supplying of a number of simple line diagrams where applicable.

G. B. D. SCOTT