

Clinical Histocompatibility Testing. Volume 3. Edited by C. B. Carpenter. (Pp. xi + 306; illustrated; \$27.50.) New York: Grune & Stratton Inc. 1979.

This is a better book than its two predecessors, which were similar 'hard-cover' versions of a special issue of *Transplantation Proceedings*. Volume 3 is actually from Volume X, No. 4 of that publication, and consists of the papers presented at the American Association for Clinical Histocompatibility Testing (mercifully abbreviated to AACTH) in 1978. There are interesting introductory papers on the genetics of histocompatibility testing, and succeeding sections give new information on HLA—A, B, C, and DR antigens, some experimental work on MLC and suppressor cells, and two short sections on clinical transplantation and on disease associations. The book reflects the current interests of American workers, and gives a good overall view of the growth points in histocompatibility. It is probably too specialised for the general reader, but even they might benefit from a browse through its pages. It will certainly be read by many workers interested in HLA and lymphocytes.

HEATHER M. DICK

Mechanisms of Intestinal Secretion. Edited by H. J. Binder. (Pp. xiii + 299; illustrated; \$28.00.) New York: Alan R. Liss Inc. 1979.

Intestinal secretion has been rediscovered over the past 10 years and, following the elucidation of the pathophysiology of cholera, has become one of the most exciting growing points in gastrointestinal physiology.

This excellent monograph is the proceedings of a conference, sponsored by The Kroc Foundation, held in California in October 1978, and is dedicated to the late Professor D. V. Kimberg. There are 22 chapters covering most contemporaneous aspects of secretory mechanisms. The first chapter by the editor succinctly summarises current clinical gastroenterological attitudes to intestinal secretion, initial chapters review secretory mechanisms in a variety of tissues including erythrocytes, choroid plexus, cornea, and frog skin, and subsequent chapters cover the various aspects of intestinal secretion including the roles of cyclic nucleotides, calcium, and protein kinases. The neurological aspects, viz.,

adrenergic, cholinergic, peptiduric, and purinergic nerves and their interactions are particularly well covered. An excellent chapter by Hugh Nellans reviews the evidence for the paracellular pathway for ion movement in the mucosa. Generally the literature surveys are well balanced but a notable exception is the chapter by Wright and his colleagues on the isolation of brush border and basolateral membranes that ignores all previous literature on this subject.

The editor and publishers are to be congratulated on the rapid production of a highly readable, reasonably-priced monograph, which is required reading for all with aspirations to understand intestinal function.

T. J. PETERS

A Colour Atlas of Ocular Tumours. By M. A. Bedford. (Pp. 70; 224 colour figures; £12.00.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1979.

The colour figures provided for this atlas are of a high quality and the text is factual and precise. The subject matter is comprehensive and the illustrations provide excellent examples of the common and rare tumours of the eye, the eyelid, and the conjunctiva. The various conditions which simulate malignant tumours are included, and it is particularly useful that space is devoted to illustrations of the effects and adverse complications of therapy.

The book is confined to *in vivo* appearances and it will not be of value to pathologists, other than to provide background information. The text is written at a level which assumes a broad knowledge of ophthalmology so that it will expand the knowledge of those who already have some experience, but it is not suitable for the undergraduate or the beginner. In this aspect the teaching value would be improved by the judicious use of Letraset arrows.

W. R. LEE

Animal Tissue Techniques. 4th edition. By G. L. Humason. (Pp. xiii + 661; illustrated; £11.40.) San Francisco: W. H. Freeman & Co. 1979.

This work sets out to cover the preparation of sections and their subsequent staining by all the standard techniques.

The book is of American origin and makes few references to English works or suppliers. Those references which are made are often inaccurate or out of date. The larger part of the book is applied to the staining of sections and it is very comprehensive although sometimes the methods mentioned are known by other names in English textbooks.

The chapters relating to section preparation are very poor; many of the techniques explained in great detail are not in my opinion used routinely today in hospital laboratories. Those methods which are in regular use receive only a passing mention. There is very little reference to laboratory safety. The hazards listed are confined to two pages at the rear of the book but they are not mentioned in the relevant chapters.

Those readers unfamiliar with previous editions may find the title misleading as the book deals mainly with human tissues. In fact the only reference specifically to animals is in the use of a 'camel's hair brush' which may be a difficult technique.

In the preface of the book the author gives a list of people to whom the book may be of use, and although 'medical technicians' is included, I think that this book would prove of little use to those people employed in histopathology laboratories.

C. SOWTER

Immunological Aspects of Infectious Diseases. Edited by G. Dick. (Pp. 524; illustrated; £19.95.) Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd. 1979.

Immunology was born from studies of the host's reaction to infections. During the era when antibiotics were thought to solve most of the problems with infections, immunology developed primarily in sectors without much connection with infectious diseases. However, during the last few years there has been a resurgence in interest in the immunology of infectious diseases. This has occurred for good reasons. Thus, for instance, several new and efficient vaccines have been produced, but at the same time the intricacy of the immune defence against infections is being revealed showing that some infections may be immunosuppressive and others immunostimulatory. Among the consequences may be, for instance, immunodeficiency, immune complex diseases, and autoimmune diseases.

Against this background a compre-