

standard of illustration is high. Every hospital library and every pathologist interested in renal disease will wish to have this book. I forecast that pathologists will have difficulty in preventing clinical colleagues borrowing the laboratory copy. It is unfortunate that the book does not have a more substantial binding for the spine will surely give way with heavy use.

JR TIGHE

Synopsis of Pathology for the Allied Health Professions. AF Gardner. (Pp x + 464; \$34.50.) Charles C Thomas. 1979.

There is a continuing need for new books with a fresh approach to the teaching of one or all disciplines of pathology to nurses and to other non-medical health workers. This book covers histopathology only, with a few disastrous excursions into other realms. It is old-fashioned and is marked by errors of principle and of detail. As an example of its unacceptable approach, the chapter on 'Congenital anomalies and hereditary diseases' consists mainly of lists of rarities (with many mistakes) and does not mention 'enzyme'. The book contains no diagrams and has long lists of untitled and undirected pre-1974 references. It cannot be recommended for any reader.

DN BARON

Pathogenic Streptococci. Proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases, held in September 1978. Ed MT Parker. (Pp 296; illustrated; £21.) Reedbooks Ltd. 1979.

The diminished clinical rôle of *Streptococcus pyogenes* in developed countries and the continued sensitivity of all isolates to penicillin have distracted the attention of many clinicians and microbiologists from the continuing importance of streptococci as agents of human disease. This handsome volume, which brings together researches carried out in many parts of the world, should help to redress the balance. There is a large section on streptococci of group A, with papers on cellular and extracellular constituents, on pathogenesis, on the immune response to these organisms, on clinical infections and their transmission, and on the specific sequelae, rheumatic fever and glomerulonephritis. There are sections on group B streptococci (long known as pathogens of cattle but only

recently recognised as agents of human disease, including meningitis in infants), on pneumococci, on *Streptococcus mutans*—its rôle in dental caries and the possible control of caries by immunisation—on the streptococci of infective endocarditis, on classification, and on antibiotic resistance, including some interesting papers on resistance transfer. The reasons why streptococci of group A have a relatively small tendency to produce resistant variants, and why their resistance to erythromycin is still rare, though first reported 20 years ago, remain mysterious. The book is packed with information and illustrates the wide range of current studies and ideas on a group of organisms which was discovered 100 years ago.

EJL LOWBURY

Processes in Pathology. An Introduction for Students of Medicine. MJ Taussig. (Pp x + 456; illustrated; £6.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

Teachers of the principles of pathology will greatly enjoy this supposedly 'introductory' textbook of nearly 500 pages. It is well and interestingly written and is lavishly supplied with excellent diagrams. However, the few illustrations included are of less value; they are perhaps epitomised by the single electron micrograph which, with its caption, is devoid of any indication of scale.

There are only five sections, and to this extent the scope of the book is limited. The sections concerned with 'Inflammation' and 'Circulation' are clear and succinct and might perhaps be regarded as suitable introductions to pathology for students in medicine. They are, however, unbalanced. For example, in the case of tissue regeneration, several pages are devoted to chalcones, while in the case of hypertension, there are several pages concerned with the kallikrein-kinin-prostaglandin system. The question arises whether students of medicine can or should assimilate at an early stage of their career the amount of detailed and at times highly-specialised information provided by this book. Although Taussig certainly appreciates this difficulty when he states that a short book on general pathology is a contradiction in terms, his enthusiasm for new information does seem somewhat incompatible with the requirements of an introductory text.

The three other sections of the book are

devoted to 'Immunology', 'Neoplasia', and the 'Genetic Basis of Disease'. These are written at greater length than the rest and should constitute an invaluable introduction to these subjects for research workers entering pathology. They reflect Taussig's special expertise as an immunologist in the Institute of Animal Physiology at Babraham. Unfortunately, however, these sections, like the rest of the book, are accompanied by a bibliography which is cursory and clearly aimed at introductory-course students rather than at those who might wish to verify some of the points made in the text.

Of the more contentious statements, those which refer to regeneration merit comment. There is, for example, the statement that 'when muscle tissue is lost through injury, the mass is not regenerated'. Yet skeletal muscle undoubtedly regenerates well after all forms of injury, as workers like Weber, Volkmann, Le Gros Clark, and many others have repeatedly shown throughout the past century. Shortcomings of this kind are not, however, evident in the three more detailed sections, which are excellent.

Taussig clearly envisaged a text that would complement, for example, Florey's *General Pathology*. He has set his sights too low. We need in this country a detailed Handbook of General Pathology, and three of Taussig's chapters, if expanded to include adequate bibliographies and reviews of the historical and methodological aspects of the subject analysed, would make an important contribution to such a handbook.

JC SLOPER

Correction

Use of human embryo lung fibroblasts to detect a heat labile toxin of *Escherichia coli* from children. HELEN HOLZEL (*J Clin Pathol* 1979;32:1216). In Methods (3), line 3, the cell count should read '6 × 10⁴/ml'.