

Book reviews

Scanning Electron Microscopy 1979. Ed O Johari. (Part I: Pp 598. Part II: Pp 910. Part III: Pp 1000. Parts I & II US \$65.50; Parts II & III US \$67.00; Parts I, II, & III US \$84.00; individual volumes not available.) Scanning Electron Microscopy Inc, PO Box 66507, AMF O'Hare, Illinois, USA.

These three volumes are the latest in the familiar series of proceedings of the annual conferences on scanning electron microscopy (SEM), previous numbers of which have been reviewed in these columns.

Part I of the three-part set deals mainly with instrumentation and physical science applications, including studies of minerals, semiconductors, archaeology, and forensic science. Parts II and III contain papers of general and specifically biomedical interest. As in past years, there is a commendable emphasis on education through a valuable range of tutorial and review papers. Every SEM unit will gain something from the description and analysis of several training programmes used in different centres to introduce students and other beginners to the use of the SEM. There is an extensive section on x-ray microanalysis and a useful group of papers on cell surface labelling techniques, which introduce a new functional dimension into SEM studies. As usual, every paper is reviewed by several critics, and the dialogue between reviewers and authors is published in full at the end of the paper. In this way any weaknesses of methodology or interpretation are drawn immediately to the reader's attention.

There is a wealth of material on a wide range of topics in experimental biology and pathology, the emphasis in general being on animal tissues. Human disease is also represented, however, with papers on infective endocarditis, primary biliary cirrhosis, prostatic neoplasia, renal disease, and colonic tumours. There is a particularly interesting contribution on the SEM features of a variety of diseases of the breast.

In this staggeringly diverse collection of papers, there is surely something for everyone. The narrowest pathological superspecialist is likely to find at least one paper close to his field of interest, while the average medical scientist will be

grateful for the accumulated expertise of hundreds of the leading exponents of the art of SEM. With subjects ranging from daguerreotypes, Mesopotamian cylinder seals, and counterfeit gold coins to the human alveolar macrophage, it will be clear that, the more catholic your interests, the harder you will find it to put down these beautifully produced and presented books.

PG TONER

Major Problems in Pathology. Vol. II. 'Problems in Breast Pathology.' JG Azzopardi. (Pp xvi + 466; illustrated; £25.) WB Saunders. 1979.

Professor Azzopardi is a celebrated teacher of histopathology, and his views, as a second opinion, are frequently sought in problem cases. It is with considerable expectations, therefore, that one approaches this book. These expectations are not disappointed for he has produced a book of outstanding merit. First and foremost it is a teaching aid written for the trainee or practising pathologist faced with the duty of reporting breast biopsies. Chapter I goes to the heart of the pathologist's problem and discusses microscopic and frozen section examination of breast tissue. Attention is held by accounts of misdiagnoses on frozen section by experienced pathologists with didactic safety rules for all who undertake this duty. There are chapters on normal structure and function, and on these bases he reviews benign hyperplasias, benign tumours, and particularly carcinoma of the breast, its varieties, and possible antecedents. There is some overlap in the various chapters, but this is a virtue of the teaching style, and the repetition emphasises important points. The chapters on underdiagnosis and overdiagnosis of malignancy are outstanding.

It would be unfair to imply that this book is merely a teaching *tour de force* on diagnostic pathology of the breast and its pitfalls for, in addition, Azzopardi has critically surveyed the vast literature on human breast carcinoma and puts into perspective areas of uncertainty and those he considers worthy of further study.

The illustrations are well chosen and complement the text. Good accounts are given of electron microscopic features (A Ahmed) and mammography (Rosemary Millis).

Pathology has been described recently as 'a discipline with a splendid past'. Azzopardi's work is a splendid riposte to

those who undervalue the academic opportunities in diagnostic pathology. This book is remarkable value at £25 and should be bought by all with an interest in breast pathology.

G SLAVIN

Enzyme Defects and Immune Dysfunction. Ciba Foundation Symposium 68 (new series). Ed K Elliott and J Whelan. (Pp 289; illustrated; US\$35.) Excerpta Medica. 1979.

This book is a synthesis of the papers presented at a Ciba Symposium on enzyme defects in immunodeficiency held in London in 1978. To those of us especially interested in this subject it has a certain transitory interest. However, there is still so much fundamental biochemical research to be done in this field that the information is tantalisingly incomplete. I feel that papers of this nature should be published in current research journals and that the increasing trend to collect symposia papers into books is confusing, expensive, and unnecessary. However, as an example of the genre, this particular publication is clearly laid out and well edited, and gives fairly up-to-date information about a rare group of diseases.

C STERN

Developmental Aspects of Craniofacial Dysmorphology. Michael Melnick, Ronald Jorgenson, and Daniel Bergsma. (Pp xi + 118; illustrated; \$16.00.) Alan R Liss. 1979.

This volume in the Birth Defects Series, which deals with craniofacial defects in a complementary manner to an earlier volume in the series (Vol. XI, No. 7), documents a meeting between clinicians and laboratory scientists to discuss developmental aspects of particular anomalies. The separation of experimental and laboratory medicine in the United States of America enhances the value of this volume there, but many Europeans working in this field will be familiar with much of the work presented. There are good contributions from Johnston and his group and from Slavkin, but other chapters are speculative and, in one instance, unbalanced. There is a wordy and non-contributory discussion of papers that would have been better omitted.

CL BERRY

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