

discuss these and related advances. Attention is presently turning away from the fact of DNA damage by chemical agents and towards the nature of the damage and the possibilities for its accurate or inaccurate repair. Evidence is accumulating that the apparent organotrophy of some carcinogens depends on the relative adequacy of DNA repair enzymes in the cells of different tissues. Although advances at the molecular biological level have been spectacular there is a growing realisation that the new insights relate only to the first, or initiating, stage of the carcinogenic process and that other factors, broadly referred to as 'tumour-promoting' or 'modifying' factors, might in the end prove to be more important. Professor E Boyland, in a historical review, stresses this point, and the theme is taken up in the editor's introduction.

Other articles address issues such as carcinogenesis by fungal products, mineral fibres, or a combination of bracken fern and a papilloma virus. Surprisingly, there are no articles on the roles of hormones, and the only article concerning food is on the significance of metabolism by gut bacteria in human carcinogenesis.

Many of the contributors to this issue of the *Bulletin* worked with the late Professor Sir Alexander Haddow and pay tribute to advances in knowledge made under his leadership and to the inspiration of his vision.

FJC ROE

**Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases.** Vols 1 and 2. Ed GL Mandell, RG Douglas Jr, and JE Bennett. (Pp 2316 + indexes; illustrated; £45.00.) John Wiley and Sons. 1979.

This massive (5.1 kg) treatise is intended to be a definitive work on clinical infectious disease. As all but four of the 172 contributors are from North America the subject coverage reflects the admirable synthesis of microbiology, medicine, epidemiology, and pharmacology that characterises infectious disease practice there. The focus is on information relevant to patient care decisions rather than laboratory diagnosis.

As with any multi-author work of this scope, the quality of writing varies, and some tendency to a strictly North American view is evident. For microbiologists these volumes could serve as a definitive clinical reference work and

would be less expensive than a library of monographs. They are no substitute for one's own bibliography of articles and reviews on special subjects.

H ELLIOTT LARSON

**Pathology of the Liver.** Ed RNM MacSween, PP Anthony, and PJ Scheuer. (Pp vi + 458; illustrated; £27.) Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

This book, written by a distinguished international group under British editors, fills a long felt need for a comprehensive, systematic text on the pathology of the liver. Each chapter is an authoritative and readable account of some aspect of liver disease. In the initial chapters there is useful background information on liver structure and pathophysiology, and among the succeeding predictable chapter headings are some topics which are sometimes neglected, including childhood afflictions, metabolic errors, and liver pathology associated with diseases of other organs.

This book in no way supplants the deservedly popular manual on liver biopsies previously published by Professor Scheuer; its remit is wider, and the two volumes complement each other. This is an essentially practical book whose natural place is close to the microscope and will be an invaluable *vade-mecum* for all histopathologists. I believe it will also be used by clinical hepatologists and it should be found not only in the pathologists' reporting room but also in the medical library.

Although reasonably priced, the publishers have produced a handsome volume which is a pleasure to handle. I must express one disappointment. The photographs are not up to the customary standards of the publishers. They have suffered in reproduction, and a lack of contrast makes some less informative than they should be.

HM CAMERON

**Interpretation of Biopsy of Endometrium.** A Blaustein. (Pp ix + 197; 185 illustrations; \$34.) Raven Press. 1979.

This monograph, which takes the form of a primer and atlas of endometrial pathology, potentially fulfils a real need for few tissues are more frequently biopsied than is the endometrium. The text is generally adequate, though far too little attention is paid to the endometrial

patterns which characterise the quite common luteal insufficiency syndrome.

A book of this type must, however, stand or fall on its illustrations. While many here are of high quality, a significant proportion suffer from defects in focusing, magnification, contrast, evenness of illumination, and arrowing. Largely because of these faults in illustration this book is disappointing and does not fully satisfy the need for a simple text and atlas of endometrial biopsy interpretation.

H FOX

**Manual for Rapid Laboratory Viral Diagnosis.** JD Almeida, P Atanasiu, DW Bradley, PS Gardner, J Maynard, AW Schuurs, A Voller, and RH Yolken. (Pp 48; illustrated; Sw Fr 6 Paperback.) World Health Organization. 1979.

This booklet was put together by a committee of laboratory workers who have extensive experience of the methods described. It contains short chapters describing in outline the technical procedures for directly recognising the presence of viral particles or virus antigens in clinical specimens together with a short bibliography. This book gives a good sense of the present status in this moving field and a good idea of what all the tests involve.

DAJ TYRRELL

**Metabolic Control and Disease.** 8th ed. Ed PK Bondy and LE Rosenberg. (Pp xviii + 1870; illustrated; £42.75.) WB Saunders. 1980.

This is the latest edition of a book previously published as *Duncan's Diseases of Metabolism*. The 44 contributors are predominantly American and almost half are new since the last edition. The change in title reflects a change in approach since 1974. The book is now even more firmly based on underlying physiological and biochemical principles. It is divided into three parts. The first, entitled 'Mechanisms of Metabolic Control', contains a new chapter on the molecular basis for hormone action as well as others, rewritten from the last edition, dealing with relevant basic mechanisms and inborn errors of metabolism. Part 2 covers some disorders of intermediary metabolism, including a new chapter on the mucopolysaccharidoses. Part 3 is entitled 'Endocrinology' and includes excellent chapters on water