

metabolism and on aldosterone.

This is not primarily intended as an advanced textbook of chemical pathology but is aimed at a wide audience, which includes physicians and basic scientists. It is not, and does not claim to be, comprehensive. Nevertheless it can be highly recommended as the best advanced book so far available on interpretative aspects of chemical pathology. It is up to date, well written, and an excellent source of references on recent work. The price is high but no higher than that of other books of similar size.

JOAN F ZILVA

Lymphology. Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress, Prague 1977. Eds P Malek, V Bartos, H Weissleder, MH Witte. (Pp xv + 516; illustrated; £29.50.) YB Medical Publishers Ltd. 1979.

The International Society of Lymphology is a heterogeneous and cosmopolitan group of scientists. This book presents 180 of the communications to its Sixth International Congress. They cover all aspects of lymphology. The individual papers are brief, and insufficient space is given to methods and findings, so that it is sometimes difficult to determine whether authors are presenting fact or opinion. Anyone interested in the lymphatic system who did not attend this congress is likely to find some papers of interest in this collection but the organisers should take steps to speed up the publication of their proceedings.

DH WRIGHT

Clinics in Gastroenterology. Vol 9 No 1. 'Virus Hepatitis'. Guest Ed S Sherlock. (Pp viii + 228; illustrated; £9.) WB Saunders. 1980.

This concise volume is more successful in presenting the up-to-date situation of this rapidly developing subject than some books compiled from symposium papers and includes over 30 references from 1979. Hepatitis A and B are both discussed with useful clinical and pathological coverage. Hepatitis 'non-A non-B' is also well discussed, and a final chapter briefly deals with hepatic injury due to therapeutic drugs. Sound opinions and advice are given, with a small quibble that the presence of antibody to hepatitis Bc antigen does not completely exclude transmission of infection from mother to child, as suggested by a table on page 200. This book represents remarkably good

value for money—an excellent updating and very useful for guidance on practical points, for information on aspects of hepatitis outside the reader's own specialty, and for those preparing for examinations.

NR GRIST

Diagnostic Electron Microscopy of Tumours. FN Ghadially. (Pp ix + 251; illustrated; £32.00.) Butterworths. 1980.

Diagnostic electron microscopy is an expanding field and the medical literature increasingly contains reports describing ultrastructural appearances in a variety of neoplasms. It is difficult for a busy pathologist to keep up with these and to filter out the salient features. Professor Ghadially has, however, helped us here by presenting the filtered facts according to the common questions which one is called upon to try to answer: For example, 'Is it an APUDOMA? What type of APUDOMA is it?' and 'Differential diagnosis of Ewing's tumour, neuroblastoma, and lymphoma'. This format makes it a particularly practical book which is complementary to Ghadially's other book, *Ultrastructural Pathology of the Cell*.

JULIE CROW

Machine Readable Labels in the Blood Transfusion Service. Ed J Jenkins. (Pp 100; illustrated; £2.00 Paperback.) MTP Press Limited. 1979.

This short booklet is the proceedings of a Symposium held in June 1979. Systems of bar code preparation and identification of relevant data on blood donors, place of donation origin, and data linkage are described based on the principles outlined in the Committee for Commonality in Blood Bank Automation whose findings were published in 1977. Practical and theoretical possibilities for the future are outlined, including some of the discussions of the DHSS Working Party on Machine Readable Labels in Blood Transfusion Practice. The book is of interest to regional and hospital blood bankers with a desire for advanced automation.

R MITCHELL

Hepatitis Viruses of Man. AJ Zuckerman and CR Howard. (Pp vii + 269; illustrated; £16.80.) Academic Press. 1979.

This book reviews the rapidly developing subject of viral hepatitis for virologists and teachers and for pathologists, immunologists, and biochemists. An in-

teresting and even entertaining historical introduction gives credit to the early workers with quotations from the war-time accounts by Dr FO MacCallum, who introduced the terms hepatitis A and B which were adopted several decades later. Then follow snapshots of the epidemiology and pathological and clinical features of hepatitis. Hepatitis B is discussed in 13 chapters, including particular detail of biochemical and biophysical aspects of the virus. The chapter on laboratory tests for hepatitis Bs antigen is perhaps unduly critical of radioimmunoassay as slow (although it can be done in less than an hour with only slight loss of sensitivity) and costly (so too is modern ELISA equipment), vulnerable to equipment breakdown (not unusually so in our experience) and entailing radioactive hazards (but of a low level, easily provided for). Problems of the carrier state, maternal transmission to the newborn, and chronic complications and sequelae are discussed. One chapter deals with hepatitis A and current tests. Others deal with hepatitis in non-human primates, tissue, and organ culture studies, and the prospects for immunisation, interferon, and antiviral therapy.

Jove nods—but only once on page 174. I did note use of the illogical term 'non-parenteral' instead of 'inapparent parenteral', or 'non-percutaneous' (page 174). This compact and readable book includes about 500 references (12 from 1979), is written with the expected authority, and fulfils its objectives.

NR GRIST