

**Diagnostic Electron Microscopy.** Vol 3. Eds BF Trump and RT Jones. (Pp xi + 536; illustrated; £31.35.) John Wiley and Sons. 1980.

This volume is a collection of chapters by different authors on a variety of subjects in the field of diagnostic EM, the common factor being (according to the preface) that they contain new information of great importance in current pathology practice. The topics covered by this book are micro-organisms, squamous carcinoma and related disorders of the lung, soft tissue tumours, prostatic carcinoma, renal diseases, and disorders of the skin and endocrine systems.

With such a variety of subjects it is to be expected that the chapter length would be very variable but the level of presentation is similarly diverse, the chapter on micro-organisms for example being a straightforward presentation of EM appearances whereas that on the lung includes results of experimental work and theories of histogenesis. The chapter on the prostate falls below the standard of the rest being badly written and with some of the figures not corresponding to the statements in the text.

Some of these individual papers would be of interest to people doing EM in the relevant fields but a pathologist doing general diagnostic work would probably prefer a more systematic coverage of the various systems as in the 11 volume series *Electron Microscopy in Human Medicine*, ed JV Johanessen, many of whose chapters are in fact contributed by the same authors featured in this series and those whose interest is confined to one area, eg renal diseases, would be unlikely to buy a volume including such other disparate topics.

JULIE CROW

**Biopsy Pathology of the Liver.** RS Patrick and JO'D McGee. (Pp viii + 335; 293 illustrations; £15.) Chapman and Hall. 1980.

The interpretation of needle biopsies of the liver is no longer an excursion into the unknown but a basic skill that every histopathologist must exercise competently and, considering the range of problems he has to face, pretty comprehensively. This book is the second of a series of biopsy pathology guides and, like the first on small intestinal biopsy, it enters a competitive field but it is none the less welcome for that.

The photograph of lymphangioma of the liver is a puzzling choice for the dust jacket but it indicates the intention, successfully achieved, of covering as wide a variety of topics as is possible in a small volume. All the usual problems are dealt with and some unusual ones in addition. The book starts with a sensible introduction and a chapter on terminology and it ends with a helpful appraisal of clinicopathological correlations. The numerous illustrations are all in black and white and generally of good quality. The references—and some of the text—are somewhat biphase ic: fresh, up-to-date information is sometimes coupled with the old and mainly historical. This affects terminology: cholangiohepatitis, cholangioma, hepatoma are difficult to accept; inflammatory changes in extrahepatic obstruction are equated with infection; giant mitochondria in alcoholism are said to be less frequent than Mallory's hyalin.

The book is neat and readily falls to hand. With few criticisms, none serious, it is warmly recommended.

PP ANTHONY

**Molecular Aspects of Medicine.** Vol 2. Ed H Baum and J Gergely. (Pp 447; \$70, £31.) Pergamon Press. 1980.

When is a book not a book? When it is a reproduction in book form of the contents of a serial publication that came out one to two years earlier, and when this is reproduced from the authors' typescripts with unjustified right-hand margins and in various typefaces and without standardisation of reference format, and with only a brief index. Such is the case here. The price must therefore be considered high and the need for republication unproven.

The volume consists of good reviews on a variety of topics vaguely related to the trendy title. They are 'Carbohydrase deficiencies in storage diseases', 'The roles of the lymphatics and the cells in high-protein oedemas', 'The scientific basis of multiple sclerosis', 'Biochemical correlates of lung disease', 'Molecular aspects of muscle disease', 'Hormonal mechanisms in human breast cancer', 'The steroid receptors of experimental mammary tumours and their relationship to those of human breast carcinoma'. Individual reviews may be consulted with pleasure and profit though most of the information is available elsewhere.

DN BARON

**The Beta-Lactam Antibiotics.** S Selwyn. (Pp 364; illustrated; £8.95.) Hodder and Stoughton. 1980.

The first chapter of this personal celebration of the 50th anniversary of Alexander Fleming's classic paper on penicillin is a delightful essay on the discovery and evolution of the penicillins and cephalosporins. This is in elegant prose pleasantly infused with the author's enthusiasm and is eminently readable. The main portion of the book deals at length and in detail with every aspect of the use, action, pharmacology, sensitivity, resistance laboratory testing, and *in vivo* activity of the Beta-Lactam antibiotics, sometimes to a daunting degree. There are especially valued chapters on *in vitro* testing and on resistance and resistance transfer but every chapter is well presented and full of information. The book ends with a brisk compendium on the clinical use of the Beta-Lactam antibiotics and finally a postscript on the clinical use of antibiotics in general.

The first part can be read for simple pleasure. The second is a worthy treatise on every aspect of the Beta-Lactams which leaves little unexamined or unsaid. It has been written with care and deserves and repays the same careful reading.

GL GIBSON

**Transfusion Therapy.** The Fetus, Infant, and Child. Ed WC Sherwood and A Cohen. (Pp 232; illustrated; \$34.50.) Masson Publishing Inc. 1980.

Immuno-haematology and blood transfusion problems abound during pregnancy and in the new born. It is surprising, therefore, that this is probably the first book to bring such problems together. It helps to link the haematologist with the separate roles of the obstetrician and the paediatrician. The overlap of interests is cleverly skirted by one author who coins the title 'perinatologist'.

The book is a compendium of the views of 26 experts, almost all from America and the majority from the University of Pennsylvania. Some years ago there was a wide divergence of practice in blood transfusion between England and the USA but reading this book one feels very much at home. The approach to prevention of haemolytic disease of the new born and the debate about future policy is virtually identical, as are the opinions expressed about the value of frozen