

Book reviews

Clinics in Haematology. Vol 10, No 1. Enzymopathies. Guest ed WC Mentzer. (Pp 256; illustrated; £9.75.) WB Saunders. 1981.

"Enzymopathies" can be purchased as a single issue from the series, Clinics in Haematology, and is highly recommended as an up-to-date and authoritative reference work for haematologists and biochemists concerned with the investigation of red cell enzyme defects. The 18 contributors provide 12 chapters ranging from the general diagnostic strategy to be adopted for a patient with a suspected enzyme defect to specific advice for the investigation of the neonate, the patient with methaemoglobinaemia, or when a defect of the Embden-Meyerhof or purine/pyrimidine salvage pathways is suspected. The erythrocyte enzyme deficiencies associated with dyserythropoiesis, malignancy, inherited metabolic disorders, and immunodeficiency states are described and also the application of erythrocyte enzyme polymorphism to paternity testing and blood stain analysis. Enzyme defects in selected animal species are reviewed and the role of membrane-associated enzymes in maintaining erythrocyte membrane deformability in man is discussed. A valuable source of information for both the routine and the research laboratory.

J STUART

Inflammation: Mechanisms and Treatment. Eds DA Willoughby and JP Giroud. (Pp 873; illustrated; £39.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1981.

The Fourth International Meeting on Future Trends in Inflammation, was held in London in February 1980 and is reported in this volume. Editors and publishers are to be congratulated on getting a well-produced and illustrated book on to our shelves in under twelve months.

There is inevitably a degree of unevenness of emphasis and style, greater than that normally encountered in a multi-author, single-subject work. Contributions range from full-length papers, such as those on new developments in chemotaxis research, the immunotherapy of rheumatoid disease and arachidonic acid metabolism in inflammation, to name but a few of many excellent papers, to rather tantalising abstracts, some of which are only a few lines in length.

The resulting, rather irregular, format may deter some potential readers. This would be a pity as the book contains excellent accounts of exciting developments which are of great interest to those who care about processes in pathology.

N WOOLF

Functional Ultrastructure of the Kidney. Ed AB Maunsbach, TS Olsen, and EI Christensen. (Pp 485; illustrated; £40.00, \$96.00.) Academic Press Inc. (London) Ltd. 1981.

Papers, delivered at an international symposium on "Correlation of Renal Ultrastructure and Function" held in Aarhus, Denmark in 1978 provide the basis for this book but have been updated including more recent references. It is a useful collection of papers particularly on glomerular basement membrane structure and function, tubular fluid and electrolyte transport, macromolecule transport and catabolism and interstitial cell structure and function. The book will be of particular value to those who are interested in function rather than renal morphology, although the correlation of structure and function is good and there is an emphasis on experimental studies which assume a basic knowledge of renal morphology and physiology. The book can be recommended not only to renal pathologists but also to nephrologists, physiologists and biochemists. The references are reasonably comprehensive. Illustrations are adequate but the numbering and labelling of them is so small that it is frequently difficult to identify the features commented upon in the captions.

JR TIGHE

Principles of Clinical Measurement. MK Sykes, MD Vickers, CJ Hull and PJ Winterburn. (Pp 325; illustrated; £21.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1981.

This is a very good book which deals with clinical measurement in general, although it is slightly biased towards anaesthetic and Intensive Care type measurements. It will be of great use to anyone who wants a wide range of information in reasonable detail.

The chapters on display and recording are particularly good apart from an error in the quoted ECG bandwidth. The explanation of decibels, although accurate, does not maintain the clarity

shown elsewhere and omits to explain the common form of usage in bandwidth specifications.

The chapter on patient safety deals with isolating transformers for the mains supply but does not even refer to isolated preamplifiers which are at present the commonest method of protection.

The general impression is of a very practical book and obviously the allocation of space to various topics reflects the authors' personal experience.

HL GREEN

Hodgkin's and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas. Eds CA Coltman and HM Colomb. (Pp 268; illustrated; \$29.50.) Grune & Stratton Inc. 1980.

This book brings together two issues of seminars in Oncology originally published in the summer of 1980. The first half contains twelve articles on aspects of Hodgkin's disease, including epidemiology, histological diagnosis, staging, and therapy. The second section on Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma covers, *inter alia*, histological classification, immunological categorisation, chromosome abnormalities, immunodeficiency and pathogenesis, staging, treatment, and cutaneous lymphomas.

The authors, all from North America, differ in their approach, some giving general reviews, others basing their contributions on more personal experience or views. However the general standard is high. The book, whilst being far from comprehensive, is a useful and thought-provoking contribution to the literature on lymphoma.

DY MASON

Diagnosis and Treatment of Immunodeficiency Diseases. GL Asherson, ADB Webster. (Pp 390; illustrated; £25.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1980.

Much of the literature on immunodeficiency disorders is anecdotal with misleading generalisations. This book provides a comprehensive and critical outline of what has now become a particularly important component of medicine and pathology. It is firmly based in clinical medicine and offers detailed information on the immunological abnormalities to be found in each category of disorder. Some are rare but others relatively common and a sensible balance is maintained between the two. The

opportunity is also taken to clarify existing terminology and definitions and contradictions are well made. The sections on sex-linked and late onset hypo- γ -globulinaemia are particularly clear and will dispel the confusion in the term "common variable immunodeficiency". I regret that no attempt was made to cover secondary immunodeficiency for numerically this variety is probably more important. Nevertheless, the seven pages devoted to malignancy and immunodeficiency disease are a valuable précis of much information.

Considerations of basic immunology are confined to a 4½ page introductory chapter and an "end-piece" on the "immunological background to the pathogenesis of immunodeficiency diseases". The detailed considerations of immunochemical and immuno-biological perturbations found within the body of the text warrant rather more of a basic framework than these rather chatty sections provide and the use of diagrammatic material would greatly benefit the text. Some of the tables take a lot of "getting into" and lose their impact. There must be few books that contain facing pages (eg. 88 and 89) with type-script opposed by 180°. The complement pathway (on page 283) is clear but misleading. No doubt these minor blemishes will be corrected in the much sought after second edition.

"Asherson and Webster" should be in every hospital library and a frequent source of reference for all practising paediatricians, adult physicians, pathologists and, not least, immunologists of all shades. I am sure that many patients will benefit from its publication.

WG REEVES

Cancer of the Head and Neck. SY Suen and EN Myers. (Pp 905; illustrated; £45.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

"Cancer of the Head and Neck" is a most readable book by 54 authors predominantly from the USA. It is at first glance for surgeons only. Soon it becomes evident that there is in every surgeon a pathologist trying to get out. There is much of interest to the histopathologist enhanced by a valuable chapter by Batsakis who defines the role of the surgical pathologist under the headings "preanalytical" (obtaining essential clinical information—often lacking); "analytical"—dealing with the actual function of the histopathologist using all the modern tools of his trade; "post-

analytical" (reporting and consultation).

Closest surgical-pathological consultation at every phase of diagnosis and therapy is rightly advocated. To rely mainly on personal clinical experience as suggested by some authors may be a "practical" approach but lacks objectivity.

The production is excellent and most of the clinical illustrations are of good quality. This book ought to be available in all medical libraries as a source of up-to-date information.

I FRIEDMANN

Functional Morphologic Changes in Female Sex Organs Induced by Exogenous Hormones. Ed G Dallenbach-Hellweg. (Pp 234; illustrated; DM 54.) Springer-Verlag. 1980.

Pathologists increasingly receive tissue from the female genital tract in which the normal appearances has been markedly altered by the administration of exogenous steroids and hence there is a need for a systematic and detailed account of the morphological changes which may be encountered. Unfortunately this book, which contains the papers given at a symposium in Heidelberg in 1979, does not provide this. It contains much useful information, eg the results of prenatal exposure to diethylstilboestrol, the endometrial patterns seen after progesterone administration, the changes induced in the cervix and vagina by combined oestrogen/progesterone contraceptive pills. However, many of the contributions are too short and insufficiently detailed. This, allied to the eclecticism inherent in all conference proceedings, dilutes the value of this book to the diagnostic histopathologist.

H FOX

Fundamentals of Hematology. 2nd ed. RA Rifkind, A Bank, PA Marks, HL Nossel, RR Ellison, J Lindenbaum. (Pp 204; illustrated; £16.50.) Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. 1980.

This is a true textbook of haematology which can be recommended to undergraduates especially because of its exceptional clarity and conciseness. It would also give a sound background to non medical scientists because of its theme of relating disease to underlying biological events. Its explanations of those particular areas which students always find difficult to understand in haematology, eg the pentose shunt pathway and its relation-

ship to G6PD deficiency, osmotic fragility, the Coombs' test, intrinsic and extrinsic coagulation pathways and lymphocyte subpopulations are exemplary. Although the book is multi-authored its organizational pattern is firm, there are good simple diagrams and many lists and Tables. There are no coloured illustrations and morphology is only emphasised in relation to cell development and function. There is no British counterpart to this book—its only blemish may be the price of £16.50 for its 200 pages.

S ROBERTS

Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System. 6th ed. Dame Sheila Sherlock. (Pp 537; illustrated; £24.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1981.

One approaches new editions of classic texts with dutiful reverence but not a little anxiety, rather as one feels amongst the exhibits of the British Museum: there is still much to learn, yes, but have the shelves been dusted and the descriptions made more interesting? All such fears are immediately dispelled on looking at this new, sixth edition of Dame Sheila's great work on the liver and biliary system. This is no mere compilation of knowledge but a gift of experience and wisdom freshly distilled and still unparalleled. Moreover, the book looks and reads a new: presentation is attractive in the slim two-column format; much has been entirely rewritten with clear diagrams and crisp photographs; references pruned and brought up to date. It is difficult to find something to criticise: some of the colour plates which have never been entirely successful, should perhaps have been left out. This book is not written for pathologists but I would recommend anyone with an interest in the subject to acquire a copy.

PP ANTHONY

Frontiers of Matrix Biology. Vol 6. *Biology and Pathology of Elastic Tissues.* Eds AM Robert and L Robert. (Pp vii + 232; 112 figs; 31 tabs; Sw fr 124/DM 148/US\$ 74.25.) S Karger AG. 1980.

This book provides a detailed account of biochemical, physical, microscopical and chemical information on elastin. It includes a masterly review of the physical chemistry by Partridge and scholarly articles on electron microscopy structure, crosslinking and the relevance of elastin to atheromatous disease.