Endocrine and Metabolic Emergencies. Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Vol 9. Eds PH Sönksen and Clara Lowy. (Pp 207; illustrated; £9.75.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1980.

This volume is one of a continuing series in which current knowledge and the practice of Endocrinology and Metabolism is described.

A wide spectrum of metabolic and endocrine emergencies are dealt with by a series of experts. These range from the management of diabetic emergencies to the problems associated with thyroid, pituitary and adrenal glands. Chapters are also included on neonatal endocrine and metabolic emergencies, and those occurring in psychiatric illness.

The book is concise and practical and will be a ready source of reference for any doctor faced with these potentially death producing situations. It will also serve to enlarge the background knowledge of medically and scientifically qualified laboratory personnel, who often observe the biochemical changes without necessarily observing the clinical situation. This edition will be a welcome adjunct to the many endocrine books currently available, dealing as it does with the abnormal emergency situation rather than the current straightforward clinical and laboratory descriptions of disease.

GW PENNINGTON

Lymph Node Biopsy. A Diagnostic Atlas. AHT Robb-Smith and CR Taylor. (Pp 308; 300 photo-micrographs in full colour; £38.) Miller Heyden Ltd. 1981.

In this atlas the authors have attempted to "display the deductive analysis by which the diagnosis of a lymph node disorder may be achieved." Thus, instead of a systematic account of the histopathological features of the various lymphadenopathies, they discuss "follicular reactions," "pseudofollicles," "sinus proliferations," etc. Unfortunately most pathologists will probably find this format confusing rather than helpful. Accounts of individual diseases are often scattered throughout the text making it difficult to obtain a coherent account of any one condition and limiting its use as a bench book.

The first chapter gives an illustrated account of the structure of the normal lymph node and there is a good discussion of classifications and nomen-

clature in the appendix. The discussion on lymphoblastic lymphomas and immunoblastic sarcomas is confusing. The term immunoblastic sarcoma is not precisely defined and all of the cases illustrated in this atlas could be categorised as either centroblastic lymphomas or plasmacytomas.

The strength of this book lies in the quality of its production and the excellence of some of the colour plates. Unfortunately many of the illustrations are poorly selected and of indifferent quality. In some it is not possible even with the aid of a magnifying glass to see the features described in the captions. The authors advocate the use of imprint cytology for the study of lymph node biopsies but none is illustrated. This is a handsome book and at first glance the reader is likely to be impressed; however before you reach for your cheque book I would recommend a careful perusal of the text and illustrations to be sure that it is going to be of practical value in the difficult diagnostic field of the lymphadenopathies.

DH WRIGHT

Biochemistry. 2nd ed. L Stryer. (Pp 949; illustrated; paperback £9.95; board £16.20.) WH Freeman and Company Limited. 1981.

I was surprised to receive a copy of Stryer's "Biochemistry" to review for the Journal. How can a chemical pathologist in a busy district general hospital review a 949 page textbook of biochemistry? However, memories came flooding back as I read the clear script enhanced by the use of colour. The mysteries of the pyruvate dehydrogenase complex, actin, protein synthesis, gene expression, and many other facets of modern biochemistry are lucidly explained. Where appropriate, diseases due to biochemical abnormalities are described, so maintaining a welcome bridge between science and clinical medicine. A textbook of biochemistry is an essential component of the library in a chemical pathology department. Which book is acquired depends much on personal preference, the main requirements being clarity and ease of reference. This textbook is admirable for the clinical chemistry laboratory and I recommend it highly for reference by the TEC students, while senior staff can refresh their ideas on basic biochemistry.

T HARGREAVES

Early Detection of Testicular Cancer. Eds NE Skakkeback, JG Berthelsen, KM Grigor, and J Visfeldt. (Pp 240; illustrated; D kr 135.) Scriptor. 1981.

Anyone who buys this book expecting help with the early diagnosis of testicular tumours will be disappointed. This topic is exhausted when the presence of abnormal germ cells in testicular biopsies is discussed by Skakkeback and later by Sigg. However, bringing together the data of these workers produced valuable discussion.

The problems of classification of testicular tumours are dealt with well and the difficulty of ascribing significance to minority elements with specialised differentiation is aired. The experimental section is interesting but apart from the suggestion that antibody markers could be used to target drugs, little of relevance to human pathology emerges. The epidemiological and clinical sections collected together useful information. Delay in diagnosis is highlighted although errors in treatment are not discussed. Tissue and serum markers are not of value in early diagnosis of primary tumours.

When the irritation of the title is forgotten this book is seen as a valuable contribution and can be recommended to all those with a special interest in testicular tumours.

DJ POLLOCK

Recent Results in Cancer Research. Vol 72. Hairy-Cell Leukaemia. JC Cawley, GF Burns, and FGJ Hayhoe. (Pp 123; 64 figs; 4 tabs; DM 56.) Springer-Verlag. 1980.

The Hairy-Cell (HC) of Hairy Cell Leukaemia is a fascinating enigma. Here is a well defined and not uncommon type of human neoplasm where the cell origin and its function remain quite unknown. Naturally the disease has received detailed attention from immunomorphologists who find evidence of B cell, T cell and macrophage properties. Sensibly the authors of this monograph deplore the attempt to place HCs within a particular cell lineage on the basis of certain characteristics while disregarding equally prominent distinguishing features.

This is a timely and helpful review of all that is known about the condition with particularly careful description of the technical aspects of cell characterisation and some good illustrations. As such it