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

can be recommended to all haematologists, histopathologists, and immunologists. Hairy Cell Leukaemia, the joker in the lymphoma-leukaemia pack, continues to be a subject of intensive research and interest. Most recently, for example, there appears to be a bald variety of the cell. Who knows what will come next?

HEM KAY

Cloning of Human Tumor Stem Cells. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 48. Ed SE Salmon. (Pp 367; illustrated; \$44.00.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1980.

Dr Salmon has brought together over 30 authors to review the culture of human tumour cells as colonies in semi-solid media.

In the first part Salmon and Buick present a very brief review of the theoretical background. Part two consists of eight chapters covering the development of suitable assays for colony forming cells in a variety of human tumours. The chapters are comprehensive and contain an appropriate amount of experimental detail, but in some areas the need for further work is obvious. There is an error in Chapter 8 (Figure 2A, p 90). A claim is made for a linear relationship between colonies and cells plated, but the figure clearly shows a log-linear relationship. Linearity is important, and an explanation for this is needed if much of the work is not to be invalidated.

Methods of colony analysis are summarised in five chapters, and the work of Trent on the cytogenetics of cells in colonies is noteworthy. Section four contains details of the controversial but encouraging work on the use of colony inhibition as a measure of tumour chemosensitivity. The final two sections contain Dr Salmon's overview of future work and useful technical appendices.

The contribution of the Arizona group in this field has been very great and this book will be of value to everyone interested in working with these techniques. However more emphasis in some chapters upon the problems which remain and some of the controversies which surround existing methods and results might have made it more valuable to the less specialised reader.

PJ SELBY

Fundamentals of Oncology. 2nd ed. Henry C Pitot. (Pp 304; illustrated; Sw fr 45.) Marcel Dekker Inc. 1981.

This text is designed as an introduction to the biology of cancer for the non-medical student of oncology in the United States. It would equally suit the trainee pathologist or medical oncologist in this country. The book requires the attention of the reader and some understanding of biology and pathology are essential if the student is not to be guided by a teacher. The chapters cover terminology, etiology, pathogenesis and biochemistry of cancer, host-tumour relationships, etc. This second edition has up-to-date references (1980) and an added chapter on the basics of cancer chemotherapy.

There are some differences in the language of oncology on this side of the Atlantic but the terms used by the author are clearly defined. It is not too difficult to find rather bald statements or comparisons made in a relatively short introduction to a vast subject. For example, too glib a comparison is made between initiations of tumour in the experimental sense and carcinoma *in-situ* of the human. The literature cited has had to be limited and is predominantly American. These are minor criticisms and I find the book admirable. I would recommend it to any serious student who wants an authoritative introduction to the subject.

HG RICHMOND

Manual of Methods for General Bacteriology. Eds P Gerhardt, RGE Murray, RN Costilow, EW Nester, WA Wood, NR Krieg and GB Phillips. (Pp 524; illustrated; \$25 hardback.) American Society for Microbiology. 1981.

This excellent and up-to-date book may be regarded as a companion to the *Manual of Clinical Microbiology*, Lennette *et al.* (eds) (1980), also produced under the auspices of the American Society for Microbiology. It is directed to general rather than clinical microbiology and deals with the following topics—morphology, growth, genetics, metabolism, systematics, and laboratory safety. The book is intended for serious microbiologists and contains a wealth of useful information and detail about a great many techniques appertaining to general bacteriology: virology is not included. There is a uniform quality to all the chapters and the details given are adequate to enable the reader to use the techniques

described without reference elsewhere. Many of the methods described are likely to be useful for research in a clinical laboratory. Strongly recommended as a reference book on the shelf of any active bacteriology department and very good value for the money.

DM JONES

Immunological Investigation of Connective Tissue Disease. LE Glynn and CA Reading. (Pp 98; illustrated; £15.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

The stated aim of the series "Practical Methods in Clinical Immunology" is to provide manuals giving "explicit guidance" in the performance of tests and also an account of the "interpretation of results". In this volume the authors consider so-called "connective tissue diseases" (a term which stubbornly refuses to pass into obsolescence) and have concentrated on five of these conditions—rheumatoid arthritis, SLE, mixed connective tissue disease, rheumatic fever and amyloid.

Of the 83 pages the first 50 are concerned with theoretical considerations of the investigations in various well defined groups of patients as reported in the literature. The text reads more like a review of the literature rather than a distillate of the authors' own extensive experience in the field. The chapter on immune complexes describes in brief detail a large number of tests, with little guidance as to which is most suitable. There is no reference to the recent results of collaborative studies of immune complex tests organised for the World Health Organisation. Immunoelectrophoresis and quantification of proteins are described but no guidance is given on how these may be used to evaluate patients with connective tissue disorders. The ELISA technique is discussed without indicating how it should be used other than to say it "offers endless opportunities" and can be readily adapted for the study of IgG, IgM or IgA rheumatoid factors—under what circumstances should we be doing this?—or again "to replace the Mancini plate method for the quantification of serum protein"—is this really advocated? Anything is possible, but books with these aims should also indicate what is realistic and appropriate.

Chapter 6, headed "In vivo tests of immunity", contains one-and-a-half pages of text, there is virtually no information on what the tests are or how they should be done and interpreted. The chapter on