

Medical textbooks should be regarded as disposable items with a finite life and by definition none more so than books entitled "Recent Advances in . . .". I would therefore applaud the publisher for producing this low-cost, soft-backed book at a price equal to that of the second edition when first published in 1977. This approach deserves commercial success and should be followed by other publishers.

The third edition contains 15 reviews written by 30 contributors (nine of whom contributed to the second edition) from the United Kingdom, United States, and Australia. These reviews include iron metabolism, megaloblastic anaemia, thalassaemia, *in vitro* culture studies of erythropoiesis and leucopoiesis, acute and chronic leukaemias (including bone marrow transplantation and immunological aspects), cytogenetics, platelets, and blood transfusion. The editor has attracted an impressive group of contributors who write well and, while some chapters are limited to a review of recent laboratory research, there is also much of a practical nature directly related to patient care. Recent Advances in Haematology continues to be an important series for haematologists and, in its new low-cost format, can be strongly recommended for every haematology department.

J STUART

Ultrastructural Appearances of Tumours. DW Henderson and JM Papadimitriou. (Pp 409; illustrated; £38.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

Those who practise diagnostic electron microscopy often work largely on their own and books which give a compilation of other workers' findings in the field are therefore valuable. This is not a completely comprehensive account of the EM appearance of all tumours but it contains many good quality electron micrographs covering a fairly wide range of tumour types. There are also 43 extremely helpful tables which draw together the features which have been found to be specific to each tumour type as well as the varieties of tumours in which particular non-specific features have been described. These tables may well prove to be the most useful aspect of the book. The text is short but does include 1867 references. The table of contents and the list of tables at the beginning of the

book would have been more helpful if page numbers had been given for each item instead of just the beginning of each section since one then has to turn to the index at the back of the book to look up any individual tumour or table.

Although we already have *Diagnostic Electron Microscopy of Tumours* by FN Ghadially and the multivolume *Electron Microscopy in Human Medicine* edited by JV Johannesson which also includes a lot of information about tumours, I think there is still a place for this Australian book for those electron microscopists whose institutions can afford it.

JULIE CROW

Textbook of Endocrinology. 6th ed. Ed Robert H Williams. (Pp 1270; illustrated; £53.25.) WB Saunders Company. 1981.

It is a pleasure to review a book of this quality incorporating as it does the views of 49 authorities on various aspects of endocrine disease.

In the first edition the main aspects of the book were stated to provide a condensed and authoritative discussion of the management of clinical endocrinopathies based upon the application of fundamental information obtained from chemical and physiological investigations. The present sixth edition continues to fulfil this objective and also brings out, in areas of controversy, the points that are controversial as viewed in the best judgement of the author. It ranges over all areas of the subject for, in addition to a consideration of the individual endocrine glands, such topics as the hormonal manifestation and response of cancer, ageing, obesity, allergy, immunology, and auto-immune disease are discussed.

The sudden death of the editor, Dr Robert Williams, interrupted work on the preparation of the current edition. Happily his former associates have collaborated to provide a further outstanding volume to be added to the armamentarium of endocrinological knowledge. This is a standard reference book which has been translated into many languages. Unfortunately, the logarithmic growth in knowledge of the subject means a heavy tome, and an even heavier price. Despite this it should have a place in the libraries of all workers in the endocrinological field.

GW PENNINGTON

Clinical Aspects of Blood Viscosity and Cell Deformability. Eds GDO Lowe, JC Barbenel, CD Forbes. (Pp 262; illustrated; DM 70; \$36.80 paperback.) Springer-Verlag. 1981.

Based on a symposium held at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in autumn 1980, this book is said to highlight for the practising clinician recent developments associating blood rheology and cell deformation with arterial and various disorders. In fact the first part of the book which evaluates the methodology for measuring cell deformation and rheology is invaluable for anyone who is interested in entering this field; there is no other modern review of the theoretical and technical background in this discipline available elsewhere. Authors such as Schmid Schonbein, Dormandy, and Sirs present authoritative surveys and experimental studies without too much stress on the physical background to their methodology. As one of them puts it, however, he has "condensed our present ignorance". This is probably a serious assessment of this rather fluid field but it does make the interpretation of the clinical essays which occupy the second half of the book open to scepticism. These are also somewhat variable in quality and difficult to compare because of the different technology applied in almost every case. However an overall appreciation of the clinical areas in which work is taking place and those where useful data may be obtained can certainly be made from this part of the book. The volume is well organised and the illustrations, line diagrams, tables and figures are numerous and well produced to the usual standards set by Springer.

S. ROATH

Fibrinolysis. N Marsh. (Pp 254; illustrated; £16.50.) John Wiley & Sons Limited. 1981.

In the past few years there has been a virtual avalanche of books on blood coagulation, fibrinolysis, and platelet function. Most are for the super-specialist or the research worker. It is therefore a delight to read this single author volume in which the essential essence of fibrinolysis has been distilled by a long standing worker in the field. The text is simple and readable for the non-expert and the line diagrams are clear and concise. The

chapter on fibrinolysis in disease is excellent and that on treatment a good review of the massive literature. There is also a good chapter on the routine assays for activators, inhibitors, and other components of fibrinolysis.

This is the ideal book for those starting reading or working in the field and is highly recommended.

CD FORBES

Postgraduate Haematology. 2nd ed. Eds AV Hoffbrand and SM Lewis. (Pp 774; illustrated; £28.) William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1981.

This is the second and expanded edition of a well known book based on a course of postgraduate lectures covering all the main fields of haematology. The various authors use the technique of critical dogma which makes excellent teaching and easy reading of topics which are kept under up-to-date review. While remaining readable the book has become also a good reference text, but when used as such, its otherwise satisfactory index betrays some weakness such as the failure to list under Philadelphia chromosome the excellent discussions on pages 498 and 507. Perhaps the next edition, which will surely come, will be typographically more even, especially in the doubled lower case 'g's. This book will be one of the best texts in any haematology department whether for the doctors use or as part of the advanced technologist's study or indeed for any interested postgraduate whether specialist or not.

HT SWAN

A Colour Atlas of Thymus and Lymph Node Histopathology with Ultrastructure. K Henry and G Farrer-Brown. (Pp 328; illustrated; £48.) Wolfe Medical Publications Limited. 1981.

"Picture pathology" whereby diagnoses are made by matching the appearances of a section to an illustration is an entirely respectable exercise. To this effect the pathologist confronted with a section or electron micrograph of thymus or lymph node is quite likely to encounter a matching picture amongst the 862 to be found in this volume. Despite some inevitable variation in the quality of the colour prints and peculiarities of emphasis,

this book succeeds reasonably well as an atlas. The trouble is that the authors have attempted to weave a textbook between the pictures. Without the discipline imposed by providing references, they have put forward what can only be described as an idiosyncratic view of lymphoma histology and classification. The pathologist struggling through the minefield of follicle centre cell lymphomas as presented here will at one point be confronted with an entity called "Malignant lymphoma, diffuse lymphocytic poorly-differentiated intermediate". Not even the three colour illustrations and one electron micrograph will help to explain the meaning of this term.

P ISAACSON

Nosocomial Infections. Ed Richard E Dixon. (Pp 326; illustrated; £27.50.) John Wiley & Sons Limited. 1981.

Many conference proceedings are either esoteric or ephemeral but this is a collection of papers from the Second International Conference on Nosocomial Infection and is very useful. The subject of nosocomial infections is a variable one and there are always new aspects to consider such as the emerging pathogens—*Clostridium difficile*, *Legionella* and JK coryneforms. The changing patterns of medicine and surgery bring new infection hazards—prophylactic antibiotics, intravenous therapy, and immunosuppressed children are considered here, as also is antibiotic resistance. A further point of interest is that many of the articles are not confined to presentation of original data but review the recent developments in a more general way. There are low spots as in any multi-author "proceedings" volume but the high spots more than compensate. Hospital microbiologists should obtain a copy.

JD WILLIAMS

Venous and Arterial Thrombosis. Evaluation, Prevention and Management. WR Pitney. (Pp 231; illustrated; £8.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

In the last few years we have seen a huge explosion of knowledge in the clinical, epidemiological, and biochemical aspects of thrombosis. Individual books for the specialist have appeared on coagulation,

platelet function, fibrinolysis, blood viscosity and rheology, and on epidemiological and clinical risk associations. It is therefore a relief to find a small, simple, readable book in which all these advances have been distilled into a cohesive story. This book covers arterial and venous thrombosis and their treatments in a didactic fashion and should be suitable for all general physicians and haematologists and for those studying for general examinations.

The authors are to be congratulated on the simplicity but effectiveness of the line drawn expository diagrams and the quality of the plates.

CD FORBES

Recent Advances in Histopathology. Vol 11. (Pp 287; illustrated; £15.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

This popular series is mainly intended for clinical diagnostic histopathologists. The latest edition covers a wide range of topics, from diseases in the ancient world to diagnostic electron microscopy. These fall into two broad groups—those directly applicable to our day to day routine, and those which present a general background and overview of a subject.

The first group includes clear and well-illustrated descriptions of the pathology of dementia, cystic diseases of kidney, conjunctival biopsies, and some more recently recognised aspects of pulmonary pathology and colitis, all presented through and for the eyes of diagnostic histopathologists. There is a timely account of perinatal autopsies which should improve the standard of this procedure so often inadequately carried out, and a chapter on fine needle aspiration cytology which ought to persuade more centres to start using this rather unfamiliar but potentially very useful technique.

The contributions on infertility, metabolic bone disease, the solitary thyroid nodule, and road traffic accidents are more general reviews. They include physiological, biochemical, epidemiological, and clinical diagnostic aspects of the subject and will certainly be appreciated by people involved in teaching and clinico-pathological presentations. Two stimulating chapters on experimental aspects of cancer make up the total of 17 contributions.