

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.