

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.

The editorial hope that there would be at least something of interest to all histopathologists in this edition is more than fulfilled—most histopathologists should find most of the contributions of interest. The general standard is well up to that of its predecessors and by present day standards its cost is reasonable. What further recommendation is needed?

ARIELA POMERANCE

Metastasis: Clinical and Experimental Aspects. Eds K Hellmann, P Hilgard and S Eccles. (Pp 456; illustrated; 125 guilders.) Martinus Nijhoff. 1980.

A collection of papers comprising the proceedings of the EORTC Conference held in London on April 21-23, 1980 is contained in this book. There are a large number of contributions on many aspects of tumour spread and the work of many well-established investigators in the field is represented. The coverage might, therefore, be expected to be comprehensive but, despite the inclusion of many interesting and stimulating titles, the actual scientific content of most of the articles in this book is disappointing. This is because the length of the papers seems to have been limited to five to six pages. Brevity is generally a virtue but here it has worked against the best interests of the authors. Most investigators choose not to present original observations for the first time in this type of volume; in general, they prefer to ensure wider circulation and permanency for their work by publishing in journals. Thus the principal merit of conference reports is to review and critically assess progress in a field, and the length of these contributions does not facilitate this function. What has emerged is a disjointed collection of papers superficially describing work that most reputable workers in the field already know. Unfortunately the variable standard of the contributions and the lack of background introductory information makes this book too specialised for the newcomer to the subject.

D TARIN

Principles of Prosection: A Guide for the Anatomic Pathologist. K Kendall Pierson. (Pp 236; illustrated; £10.75.) John Wiley & Sons. 1980.

This bench manual on how to dissect and sample pathological specimens is to be welcomed for there are few other works dealing with this subject in such detail. The main focus of the book is on surgical resections. There is a chapter on each of the major systems with separate consideration of breast, ocular ENT, and paediatric pathology. Emphasis is rightly placed on identification of lymph node groups in cancer resections and on adequacy of sampling. The outline drawings of various specimens which the authors use for their reports are particularly commendable. In an otherwise very thorough book the absence of any mention of dental or salivary specimens is surprising. Information on the uses of histometry and immunoperoxidase methods is also lacking.

These small deficiencies apart, this manual will be particularly valuable to trainees, while experienced pathologists should enjoy comparing their favoured procedures with those advocated. Nearly everyone will pick up some useful tips.

JM ANDERSON

Recent Advances in Blood Coagulation. No. 3. Ed L Poller. (Pp 350; illustrated; £15.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

In this timely further volume of the series the editor, Leon Poller, has drawn together a group of international experts to review areas of coagulation where progress has occurred in the last few years. The result is a highly readable, accurate, and up-to-date account of the developing areas in coagulation. The book is highly recommended for all interested in haemostasis and coagulation and will also be very useful for postgraduate students preparing for higher examinations in haematology.

JF DAVIDSON

Anticoagulants and Fibrinolytics. EI Chazov and KM Lakin. (Pp 358; illustrated; £28.50.) YB Medical Publishers Ltd. 1980.

This is an English translation of the original Russian edition published in 1977. It deals extensively with a wide range of anticoagulant compounds, various anticoagulant antagonists, fibrinolytic compounds, and fibrinolytic inhibitors. A considerable part of the work it draws on is not well known in the West and many of the compounds referred to

have only been studied in detail in Eastern European countries.

It is not a book for the postgraduate preparing for higher examinations. It will, however, be of value to research workers in the field of anticoagulant and fibrinolytic therapy and will provide them with a source of scientific information not generally available in the English literature. It is a book therefore for the haemostasis worker to refer to but unfortunately its rather limited index will restrict its use as a quick source of reference.

JF DAVIDSON

Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections. Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections. Ed Professor Dr J Jeljaszewicz. (Pp 1038; illustrated; DM 348.) Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1981.

In recent years the Polish National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute of Hygiene in Warsaw have organised a number of symposia on staphylococci and staphylococcal infections, and this 2 Kg volume contains the 163 papers (all in English) presented at the fourth such international symposium held in October 1979. The symposium was undoubtedly very successful and attended by a large proportion of the workers active in the field who presented new work on a great variety of topics namely taxonomy, pathogenesis, cell structure, genetics, and epidemiology. Coagulase negative staphylococci had much attention, and there were review lectures on bacteriocins (H Brandis), toxins (J Arbuthnot) and host determinants of infection (P Quie).

There seems, however, no good case for buying this volume, appearing over two years after the meeting and at a cost of 348 deutschmarks. Any new work of significance must surely have already seen the light of day through normal journal publication, and a symposium volume of this sort cannot, despite its size, provide a comprehensive summary of the current state of knowledge of the subject.

REO WILLIAMS