

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 its subject.

REO WILLIAMS