themselves will act as an excellent source of reference for specialised workers in coagulation and fibrinolysis.

CD FORBES

Cancer Biology. RW Ruddon. (Pp 344; illustrated; paperback £10.) Oxford University Press. 1981.

Dr Ruddon aims to provide "a concise yet comprehensive review of cancer biology". His approach to the subject is original in that over two thirds of the book is devoted to cellular differentiation and its aberrations, and to the phenotypic characteristics of transformed malignant cells. Complex arguments are clearly presented and their experimental basis is usually well described. These four chapters form the most satisfactory part of the text. Paradoxically the author is less successful in presenting the simpler aspects of tumour biology; the opening section on the nature of malignant tumours, in particular, is superficially written and lamentably illustrated. Clinical implications are somewhat underplayed except in a speculative last chapter in which some future prospects for preventing and curing cancer are discussed. There is an adequate bibliography which covers the literature up to 1980.

RL CARTER

Manual for the Determination of the Clinical Role of Anaerobic Microbiology. Lorraine S Gall and Phyllis E Rielly. (Pp 78; illustrated; US $39.00; Foreign $45.00.) CRC Press Inc. 1981.

This short, well-produced book will be of interest chiefly to American microbiologists since much of the "hardware" it describes, and the administrative methodology it advocates, find greatest relevance in the USA; indeed, in the context of British microbiology it is difficult both from the title of the book and from its contents to decide quite why this type of publication is needed. Apart from chapter 5, which contains good descriptions of PRAS role tube methods, the anaerobic chamber, and anaerobic jar, the text does not go deeply into the practical or theoretical aspects of clinical anaerobic microbiology. Clinical aspects of anaerobic infections are briefly listed in two pages, while in the 10-page chapter on the determination of antibiotic susceptibility of clinically important anaerobes, the only antimicrobials mentioned (once each) are tetracycline and erythromycin.

The text as a whole is well written but repetitious and sometimes quaint, for example, "a methylene blue indicator becomes reduced to a white color". This book, while being far from comprehensive, is thought-provoking, especially in the area of laboratory management.

AT WILLIS

Pathology of Congenital Heart Disease. AE Becker and RH Anderson. (Pp 498; illustrated; £45.) The Butterworth Group. 1981.

The undeniable cardiac bias of the Postgraduate Pathology Series so far is fully justified with the addition of the present volume. The work of Becker and Anderson is already familiar to those working in the field of paediatric cardiology, but now it is presented to the wider pathological readership which it deserves. The authors' approach to congenital heart disease is summarised as sequential chamber localisation and it is based on the recognition of the cardiac chambers using three main features—morphology, connections, and relations. The system, which is clearly described in the first chapter, is the key to the subsequent account of specific anomalies which forms the bulk of the volume. There are also valuable chapters on cardiac tumours, syndromes associated with cardiovascular lesions, and on pulmonary complications. The style is lucid and readable. The numerous diagrams are a model of clarity and information. Black and white illustrations are notoriously demanding in this field and a high standard has been achieved. The references are selective and right up to date. This is an excellent book, highly recommended to the trained and the trainee alike.

AAM GIBSON

Immunology at a Glance. 2nd ed. JHL Playfair. (Pp 70; illustrated; paperback £4.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1982.

This is the 2nd edition of John Playfair's intriguing presentation of modern concepts in immunology as a series of diagrams, one for each facet of the subject. It is not greatly changed from the first edition. It is said not to be a book for immunologists—but I wonder. I imagine that, like myself, many immunologists would benefit from seeing diagramatic presentations of less familiar areas of the subject which put their own ideas into perspective. Many of the diagrams could be useful adjuncts to lecturing a group of students. Some diagrams, particularly the only new one in this edition on the genetic control of antibody synthesis, seem to me to require an appreciable knowledge of immunology to understand them.

There is a dilemma inherent in the approach of this book. Are even the most complex concepts amenable to simplified explanations? This is partly a philosophical question about the nature of explanation and whom it will satisfy. Clearly John Playfair believes it is possible to be brief and yet succinct. Whether he is entirely successful or not others will judge for themselves, for there is surely something for everyone in this short, modestly priced book.

RA THOMPSON

Atlas of Pulmonary Pathology. AR Gibbs and RME Seal. (Pp 135; illustrated; £27·95.) MTP Press Ltd. 1982.

The Atlas of Pulmonary Pathology is a valuable bench book for the practising histopathologist with an extensive cover of both common and rare lung diseases.

It is divided into twenty-one chapters with a good account and choice of subjects. There are many useful line and coloured simple diagrams interposed and followed by coloured and a few black and white macroscopic and histological photographs. Radiographs and electron micrographs are not included. The inclusion of up to twenty-one references at the end of each chapter is a useful feature. The index is comprehensive and allows easy access to the contents. The quality of some micrographs is not of the best but was perhaps dictated by the reasonable price.

Somewhat surprisingly the atlas does not include an expected introductory chapter on pulmonary anatomy. Reflecting the expertise of the authors, occupational lung disorders (3 chapters) and lung tumours (5 chapters) receive particular attention. Lung tumours are well illustrated and are a useful guide to the recently agreed revised WHO classification. The chapter on interstitial pneumonias is a very useful modern