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

account amplifying the fundamental work of the late Professor Liebow. Special mention should also be made of the clear description of the ill-understood group of primary lymphoproliferative disorders which includes useful diagnostic criteria despite the frequent overlap. The two chapters on vascular diseases includes a good account of systemic vasculitis presenting as primary lung diseases. The atlas also includes a chapter by Dr JG Leopold on chronic bronchitis and emphysema with clarification of the often confusing nomenclature.

In conclusion the atlas will be of considerable value to the trainee histopathologist. To the specialist the atlas is more than an "aide memoire" as it provides up-to-date classification of more common diseases, and valuable accounts of rare lesions.

W JONES WILLIAMS

Recent Advances in Clinical Oncology. Ed CJ Williams and JMA Whitehouse. (Pp 405; illustrated; £19·50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

Recent Advances in Clinical Oncology is the first in a series aimed not only at examining the "state of the art", but also at integrating clinical and basic research interests in promising areas of oncology. In this edition, multiple authors from both sides of the Atlantic discuss aspects of genitourinary, bronchial, and breast cancers together with lymphoreticular neoplasms. In addition there are sections devoted to the psychosocial aspects of cancer and to new approaches and drugs in tumour management.

There are several sections of particular interest to pathologists. Not infrequently the laboratory is pressed by clinicians to test particular tumours for their in vitro drug sensitivity. The chapter by Salmon and his colleagues based upon a study of almost two hundred patients gives the impression that this is now a feasible proposition. While the test is accurate at predicting which drugs are not clinically useful it is only 60% accurate at predicting drug responses in vitro and in vivo. Hence the method is not yet one for routine service use.

The pathology and immunopathology of lymphoreticular neoplasms with the use of immunological probes is well reviewed and worthy of reading. In the next volume it is to be hoped that the many monoclonal antibodies now in use to type and classify such lesions will be given more space and discussion.

The use of tumour markers to give a portrait of the progress of germ cell tumours and responsiveness to treatment is discussed in several chapters. The assay of serum AFP and β-HCG now have an established place in the management of such tumours and the various chapters give good guidance as to how to use them and other tumour marker indices in a clinically useful manner. While these sections are those with greatest pathological interest, other chapters frequently discuss the importance of staging and the role of accurate pathology.

All in all this is a good overview and should be of greatest interest to those in training. It would be good if future editions could be produced with better paper to give higher quality illustrations and the editors decided whether to use American or English spelling throughout the entire text.

A MUNRO NEVILLE

Diabetes Mellitus. Brownlee Handbook Set—5 vols. (Pp 1632; illustrated; £95.) Available as separate volumes. John Wiley & Sons Limited. 1981.

In the last 10 years research in clinical and experimental diabetes has progressed at such a pace that it is timely, as Dr George Cahill says in his foreword to the book, to "stop and take inventory to facilitate perspective." This five-volume handbook aims to fulfil this purpose and the thirty-six chapters written by 60 authors cover virtually every clinical and scientific aspect of diabetes. Most of the chapters are in effect review articles with copious references, on work done in the decade between 1970-1980. Practically the whole field of diabetes is there, illustrating that diabetes mellitus can no longer be thought of as a single disease entity but must be regarded as a spectrum of disorders in which the common factor is deficiency of insulin or a defect in its action.

Volume I begins with articles on the genetic and viral influences in the aetiology of diabetes, and describes the physiological and pathological factors influencing insulin secretion. It also includes articles on glucagon, somatostatin and insulin-like growth factors. Volume 2 goes on to provide extensive and up-to-date reviews on islet cell function and insulin biosynthesis, and on the interaction of insulin with its cell-surface receptors and the subsequent intracellular events. Volume 3 broadens the subject to describe the metabolic changes in the body brought about by the action of insulin, while Volume 4 deals with the biochemical consequences of insulin lack. Volume 5 completes the picture with a survey of recent research in clinical diabetes as it affects the insulin-dependent diabetic only. No mention is made of the use of oral hypoglycaemic drugs: this may be a reflection of the impact of the University Diabetes Program Group's report and recommendations on the management of diabetes in the USA. The book closes with a forward look to future therapies, including pancreas and islet transplantation.

An important function of a handbook is that it can be kept at hand and contains useful and helpful information. Having kept it at hand for as many months as there are volumes and consulted it on problems as they arose in the clinic or in the laboratory, I found that it rarely failed to provide useful and balanced information. What is more, like a good teacher, it subtly leads one on to read around the immediate subject in question so that it achieves its aim of "taking inventory to facilitate perspective."

All in all, this is an excellent review of the state of the art in research in diabetes at the beginning of the 1980s. For anyone involved in this field this book, while expensive, is good value.

RF MAHLER

Anaemias—Case Studies. A Compilation of 49 Clinical Studies. RH Kough, AZ Makary, CT Thornsvard. (Pp 354; illustrated; $20 paperback.) Medical Examination Publishing Co. Inc. 1981.

Personally studied patients form a major basis of general and specialist training. A useful adjuvant is the study of other doctors' patients and this book presents palatably forty-nine anaemic cases of various types with built-in multiple choice questions and a modest number of references. Criticisms are required—three examples of myelosclerosis, three of spherocytosis, and two of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura appear excessive; illustrations (all black and white) show variable quality—some excellent eg Fig. 52, others difficult to see eg Fig. 11; quantitative data sometimes give mean cell volume etc worked out,