

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 Thornsvar. (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,