

sometimes left for calculation. On the credit side, investigations are thorough, but generally not excessive, with urine and faeces not neglected. Various types of anaemia are regarded, as they should, as definitive physical signs, not specific diagnoses. Trainees in haematology and general medicine should find this book interesting and instructive, but supplementing not replacing systematic study of their own cases.

HB GOODALL

Virus Persistence. Ed BWJ Mahy, AC Minson, and GK Darby. (Pp 300; illustrated; £25.) Cambridge University Press. 1982.

Like its predecessors in the series, this record of a two-day symposium held in Cambridge at the end of March was published on the day it was held. The need to complete the manuscript well in advance could have resulted in the contributions being out of date even before they were delivered. That this happened only once is largely due to the topic chosen which is not one in which new breakthroughs occur daily. Nevertheless we need to understand the mechanisms by which viruses persist either in their host or the community.

With each contributor interpreting it differently, persistence then emerged as something of a Humpty-Dumpty word, meaning what each chose it to mean. To some it meant persistence in a cell or host, to others persistence in the community either over a period or when the host is not available at all, while to a third group it was an irrelevance not to be mentioned at all! Nevertheless this symposium managed to avoid most of the overexposed topics in virology. There was only one paper on hepatitis and none on interferon or viral diarrhoea. The topics that were covered are those of importance to practical virologists and some worthwhile questions were posed. As might be expected the spoken contributions were not identical to the written version in the book although the differences were mostly of emphasis. Most notably, the Sézary syndrome (T cell lymphoma) in which a human virus may specifically cause a malignancy was discussed in more detail by Dr Robin Weiss than the brief mention in his chapter, probably because the story has developed since it was written.

Those who went to Cambridge enjoyed the symposium, although some tigers would have preferred more red meat on the first day, and the published version is a good account of it. For teaching departments this will be a very useful source of some basic information for two or three years and virologists of all kinds (and some epidemiologists as well) will find something to interest them in this moderately priced book. But buy now, the messages will not be highly topical for too long.

CR MADELEY

Bone Marrow Biopsy. Ed John R Krause. (Pp 232; illustrated; £22.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

The stated purpose of this book is to encourage more effective use of bone marrow biopsy, and with useful chapters dealing with the individual haemic elements, stromal responses, and histiocytic infiltration in the marrow, amply supplemented with excellent Tables, it succeeds in this purpose. Marrow involvement in neoplastic states such as Hodgkin's disease, the plasma cell dyscrasias, and metastatic carcinoma receives valuable coverage although the quality of the illustrations does not always do justice to the text, and a more committed approach to the categorisation of the lymphoproliferative states might have clarified the interpretative problems they present. It is also surprising that the histology of aspirated marrow granules receives such scant attention. Nonetheless histopathologists will welcome the guidance provided by the highly experienced contributors to this book.

FD LEE

Handbook of Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy Cytology. Tilde S Kline. (Pp 319; illustrated; £27.75.) Year Book Medical Publishers Ltd. 1981.

The author's enthusiasm for aspiration biopsy cytology is tempered by the recognition that it is not a "substitute for clinical judgement" nor for "indicated histopathological biopsy". This balanced view is maintained throughout the sections covering both supra- and infra-diaphragmatic

organs as well as lesions at superficial sites. A useful addition is an account of imaginative techniques in relation to aspiration biopsy. In each main section the technique is set against a clinical background; an account given of technical methods; normal and abnormal findings are described in detail but the author also points out the diagnostic pitfalls and possible complications. It is unfortunate that the illustrations are somewhat uneven in quality. In a single volume it would be impossible to cover every site in detail, but the combination of lymph node pathology with that of other superficial lesions and a bird's eye view of hepatic, genitourinary, and bone pathology inevitably mean that the accounts of these topics fail to stand comparison with the specialist monographs on individual subjects. Nevertheless the book can be recommended overall to the pathologist interested in expanding his working knowledge of this growing field.

HELENA E HUGHES

Morphogenesis and Malformation of the Skin. Ed Richard J Blandau. (Pp 274; illustrated; £30.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1981.

The proceedings of the Sixth International Workshop on Morphogenesis and Malformation sponsored by March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation are reported in this book. The contributions cover a range of disorders affecting dermis and epidermis and there are also accounts of epidermal differentiation, melanogenesis, and collagen biosynthesis. Several contributors are internationally renowned in their special fields and all are from North America with a fair proportion, like the editor, from the Seattle region. Subjects such as the premature ageing syndromes, connective tissue disorders, and epidermolysis bullosa are summarised well, and the section on fetal skin ultrastructure is beautifully illustrated and a most useful review.

The book will have limited appeal to pathologists concerned with day to day problems of diagnostic histopathology. Its chief interest will be for those with research interests in cutaneous biology and pathology and will help to clarify possible avenues for future work on the rapidly growing field of prenatal diagnosis.

RAJ EADY