tumours at present, but do serve to extend the corpus of pathological knowledge to the ultrastructural level and hopefully may be used to improve the classifications of the future.

One feature of the presentation which is a considerable irritation when looking up any particular lesion is that the text and the illustrations have been allowed to become increasingly asynchronous so that relevant photographs are rarely on the same page as the description and often are many pages away.

The chapter on inflammatory and degenerative joint conditions includes a considerable background of normal appearances and reactive changes produced in experimental animals and only a relatively short section on the changes of rheumatoid and osteoarthritis.

The section on non-neoplastic disorders of skeletal muscle may prove to be particularly useful. It describes the ultrastructure of normal muscle and the pathological changes which can be seen in the various organelles before going onto the characteristic features of the different myopathies.

On the whole this is a useful coverage of rather specialist areas for the general histopathologist/electron microscopist.

JULIE CROW

Genital Infection by Chlamydia trachomatis. Current Topics in Infection Series no. 2. JD Oriel and GL Ridgway. (Pp 144; illustrated; £13.50.) Edward Arnold Ltd. 1982.

A review of clinical and microbiological aspects of chlamydial genital infections is presented in this book and, in particular, provides good coverage of those conditions in which *C. trachomatis* has recently been implicated—for example, infant pneumonia and salpingitis. It also contains an interesting and comprehensive chapter on the treatment of chlamydial infections.

The overriding interest of the authors in *in vitro* antibiotic testing is obviously reflected in the large amount of space given to this topic; an entire chapter is, likewise, devoted to various aspects of LGV, whilst the more common problem of relapsing NGU is mentioned only in passing.

It is difficult to decide at which group this book is aimed: it may be useful to clinicians as an introduction to, and a review of current chlamydial research. However, the technical descriptions throughout the text are inadequate and often inaccurate—for

example, the microimmunofluorescence test. The appendix of laboratory procedures is of little practical use and the book would seem of limited value to those actively engaged in chlamydial research.

BJ THOMAS

Ultrastructural Pathology of the Cell and Matrix. 3rd ed. FN Ghadially. (Pp 971; illustrated; £90.) Butterworths. 1982.

This book sets out to catalogue the entire range of recorded subcellular pathology: an impossible task, by the author's own admission. It is, however, probably the closest approach to that unreachable goal that any book, let alone a single-author volume, has yet achieved. Although sometimes opinionated, the text is a remarkable achievement as a survey of the broad field of cellular pathology. Half of the pages consist of electron micrographs and there are 3500 references to the literature, some to the light-microscopic background, and others to papers from all phases in the evolution of biological electron microscopy. Most of the illustrations are excellent, and the quality of the paper and printing is outstanding in every way. This may explain the remarkable price, which must surely set some new record. Nevertheless, despite the price, this book is one which any laboratory dealing with ultrastructural morphology and pathology will find invaluable as a source of reference to the many morphological peculiarities which accompany cellular dysfunction and disease.

PG TONER

Alcohol and Disease. Ed Sheila Sherlock. (Pp 114; illustrated; paperback £9.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

Alcohol has surely displaced syphilis as the great mimic of disease. Its ravages have for too long been looked upon as falling only within the provinces of psychiatry and hepatology amongst medical practitioners. This authoritative, though relatively short volume, does much to dispel this idea. With 20 chapters by acknowledged experts in their respective fields drawn entirely from British practitioners and scientists, this volume deals with such varied topics as Alcohol and Nutrition, Histocompatibility Antigens, Alcohol and the Endocrine System, the Effect of Alcohol upon the Developing Foetus and its Role in the Pathogenesis of Muscular Disease, and Disease of the Heart and Blood Forming

Tissues. The information is bang-up-to-date and presented in the concise style we have come to associate with the *British Medical Bulletin* of which this volume is a single offprint. Although the area of most interest to clinical pathologists—namely the use of laboratory methods to detect and diagnose excessive alcohol use, is not dealt with expressly in this volume, it will nonetheless be of great interest to all practitioners of clinical laboratory medicine. It can confidently be recommended as an important sourcebook of contemporary knowledge of the somatic manifestations of alcohol-induced disease, and is well worth its modest price.

V MARKS

MCQ Tutor for Students of Pathology. 2nd series. Bernard Lennox. (Pp 156; paperback £5.75.) William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1982.

There can be few, if any, pathologists who have a greater experience of the treacherous field of the multiple choice question than Professor Bernard Lennox. Many would regard the presence of his name on the title page of an MCQ Tutor in Pathology as a virtual guarantee of high quality and they will not be disappointed.

The questions are searching without being unduly recondite and the inclusion of clear and pithy answers on the reverse side of each page of questions is particularly helpful. This book, like its predecessor, should be a source not only of help but of enjoyment to students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels who are preparing for examinations in pathology.

N WOOLF

The Causes of Cancer. Richard Doll and Richard Peto. (Pp 112; illustrated; paperback £4.95.) Oxford University Press. 1982.

This article, running to 112 pages, was first published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* in June 1981. The review is now produced as a paperback book and it is emphasised that it is also addressed to the non-specialist. The authors critically examine the premise that many forms of cancer are attributable to occupational hazards and may therefore be preventable. In their report, which is epitomised by clarity of presentation, a masterly command of language, and an incisive critical approach, the authors conclude that, with the excep-