Muscle Pathology in Neuromuscular Disease. András L Korényi-Both. (Pp 487; \$74.50.) Charles C Thomas. 1983.

The title of this book is a slight misnomer as it is devoted to the histopathology of skeletal muscle. There have been a number of such books recently, competently written and well-illustrated. This is no exception. There is a useful chapter on the technique of muscle biopsy and how to handle the specimen. It also discusses the problem of post mortem degradation and suggests that post mortem histochemistry can be quite useful.

However the outstanding feature of the book is the number and quality of the electron micrographs. In many cases they are directly related to the light microscopical appearances and are the most complete information yet available of ultrastructural pathology.

This book is aimed more at the specialist muscle pathologist than for general use.

BARBARA SMITH

The Human Teratomas. Experimental and Clinical Biology. Ed Ivan Damjanov, Barbara B Knowles, and Davor Solter. (Pp 358; \$59.50.) The Humana Press Inc. 1983.

Highly specialist books with multiple authors are often a disappointment. In these volumes, sometimes as the result of a meeting, there is a re-hash of previously published data, a superficial review, and little to recommend the work to other than a directly involved worker. This volume is an exception. The contributors have, with very few exceptions, obviously worked hard to collect and collate information. Chapter 2 by Damjanov on the pathology of human teratomas is a comprehensive survey, and the chapters on epidemiology (Gilman) and the origin of teratomas (Linder) are good surveys although the data have been published elsewhere. Waxman and Deppisch provide a valuable survey of malignant alteration in benign teratomas. The experimental chapters clearly relate how the results of animal work have improved our understanding of germ cell tumours.

The book will be useful for general laboratories by virtue of the chapters on pathology, metastasis (a separate chapter by Oosterhuis), epidemiology, and markers (Heyderman). It will also give an up-to-

date view of these neoplasms and, as far as the reviewer is concerned, revive a lecture which was clearly becoming dated.

CL BERRY

Fetal Antigens and Cancer. Ciba Foundation Symposium 96. (Pp 263; £25.) Pitman Press. 1983.

In the past few years, and with the introduction of monoclonal antibody probes, quite a number of interesting observations have been made in respect to structural, enzymic, and secreted product changes, which occur during differentiation and embryogenesis. Not the least important of these may be the modifications to cell surface glycoproteins and glycolipids. This small book contains little about these more recent data. There is little that has not been previously published or is present in other related volumes on "cancer biology". Indeed, the best parts of this edition are to be found in the discussion section. The area following the topic of "Human Cancer Antigens" was particularly good. It was only here that attention was focused on some new areas of potential relevance to biology, cancer, and differentiation.

Speaking as a pathologist, it is a pity that this edition contains so many loose statements about neoplasms, such as "there exists some relationship between the frequency of cancer and the capacity for proliferation". (What of the small bowel?) OR "Dysplastic naevi, which can be considered precancerous" OR "Breast cancer is an anaplastic tumour". Perhaps better representation at future Symposia would obviate such comments. Nonetheless, this is an eminently readable book and one which had certainly stimulated some of my all-too-often inert and/or absent thought processes.

A MUNRO NEVILLE

Biopsy Pathology of the Lymphoreticular System. DH Wright and PG Isaacson. (Pp 337; £25.) Chapman and Hall. 1983.

To provide practical guidance on a controversial topic such as lymphoreticular pathology without introducing either confusion or whimsical over-simplification is an exacting task. The authors of this book are to be congratulated not only in avoid-

ing these pit-falls but in condensing such a large amount of important information into a volume of manageable size. The text is concise yet readable and the reference whilst of modest size is both up to date and comprehensive. Although the book is mainly concerned with reactive and neoplastic disturbances, pathologists will welcome the excellent account of extra-nodal lymphoid problems. Also valuable is the advice on biopsy processing which reflects extensive experience and re-emphasises the growing necessity of a scientific approach to diagnosis. Classification is discussed but, apart from the justified adoption of a special category for Burkitt's lymphoma, the introduction of yet another system is wisely avoided. With few exceptions the black and white illustrations work well and the value of ultrathin sections is plainly evident.

This book undoubtedly fulfils its aim of providing practical help and should become an indispensable part of the diagnostic pathologist's armamentarium. Clinical oncologists, whose co-operation in the diagnostic process is vital, would also appreciate this modern view of lymphoid disease.

Protein Abnormalities. Vol 1. Physiology of Immunoglobulins: Diagnostic and Clinical Aspects. Ed Stephan E Ritzmann. (Pp 359; £29.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

Physiology of Immunoglobulins is the first volume of a new series aimed at presenting the most recent research in proteins relevant to diagnostic laboratory techniques and clinical medicine in a format which will make information readily available to the busy pathologist, technician or clinician. Volume 1 covers the physiology of immunoglobulins. Future volumes will discuss other serum proteins and their equivalents in body fluids.

The initial section is largely technical. It describes a range of electrophoretic and immunochemical methods including two dimensional high resolution techniques, quantification of serum proteins by nephelometry and turbidimetry, and the automation using a fast centrifugal analyser. This section is concluded with a chapter on the interpretation of serum protein values. The second half of the book is devoted to antibody structures and function.

On searching through the book I found

wealth of useful information but the title does not adequately describe the contents. I have the impression that this volume was hastily put together and needed stronger editing. None the less, pathologists with an interest in this field are well advised to browse through the book — many will end up buying it for their library.

BRENDA SLAVIN

Atlas of Gynaecological Pathology. Current Histopathology Series. Vol 5. H Fox and CH Buckley. (Pp 166; £34.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1983.

Although an extensive theoretical knowledge is obligatory for a trained pathologist, the practice of diagnostic histopathology is a visual art depending upon the recognition of patterns and the interrelationships of cell masses, spaces, and colours. With this in mind, a number of atlases of histopathology have appeared over the last decade or so and this book, covering the area of gynaecological pathology, is part of a series which is one of the latest in the genre. The aim of the book is to provide a comprehensive, if not encyclopaedic, collection of histological appearances covering the subject fully and including variations from the most usual patterns, which can be used as an everyday reference guide to the busy histopathologist who may not have the time or the facilities to discuss his problems with other histopathologists.

It is only partly successful for two reasons. In the first place, the illustrations are of a very mediocre quality; the colours are generally very poor and unsaturated, and in a few examples the contrast is so low as to make recognition of the condition illustrated almost impossible. Furthermore, there is a striking inconsistency in colour balance with backgrounds ranging from brown, through white and pink, to deep lilac (the background should, of course, be white). In their foreword the authors mention that they had to include a few photographs of poorly cut sections as these were the only ones available, but it is obvious that this is not the cause of the problem. The main fault is a poor colour reproduction process used by the printer. It is my belief that this book would have been much better had the present-day trend for colour pictures been ignored and good monochrome figures used instead. Secondly, the volume does not contain enough photographs of

every condition to fulfil the aims quoted in the foreword. For example, there is only one illustration of a yolk-sac tumour; the neoplasm which usually has varying patterns from one area to another needs fuller representation than this. In other words, to be of real value this book needs to be bigger. The volume certainly has a part to play in training of junior pathologists, but it cannot be recommended for the purpose the editor intends which is as a handbook for the practising pathologist.

M ANDERSON

Bone and Joint Disease. Current Topics in Pathology. Vol 71. Ed CL Berry, E Grundmann, WH Kirsten. (Pp 307; £36.50.) Springer. 1982.

Two of the nine chapters of this multi-author book relate to bone. One deals with disease associated with hyperbaric exposure and the other is a well balanced account of the use of electron microscopy as a supplement to radiology and light microscopy in the differential diagnosis of bone tumours. The rest of the book covers a range of topics related to joint disease including the examination of synovial fluid and the synovial biopsy, HLA systems and experimental models of arthritis, and degenerative joint disease. The excellent chapter on tissue reactions to joint prostheses is timely in view of the increasing amount of material coming to the pathologist from replacement arthroplasties. Most laboratories are familiar with the search for, and attempted recognition of, crystals in joint fluid but the chapter on the role of particles in the pathogenesis of joint disease provides a stimulating and clearly set out discussion of the debated mechanisms involved in the onset and cessation of acute attacks of crystal arthropathy and on those of subsequent joint destruction.

The contents of the book strike a nice balance between practical help in diagnosis and matters of more academic interest. I enjoyed reading it though I found the non-clinical sections of the chapter on HLA systems heavy going. I recommend it to both pathologists and clinicians with an interest in bone and joint disease.

MARY E CATTO

Pathology of a Black African Population. Current Topics in Pathology. Vol 72. Eds

CL Berry, E Grundmann, WH Kirsten and C Isaacson. (Pp 152; illustrated; DM 139.) Springer-Verlag. 1982.

I came to this book with great anticipation for it is based on the very great volume of work at Banagwanath Hospital, Johannesburg. The contents are not as comprehensive as the title and it is in fact only eight chapters based on a rather arbitrary selection—perhaps what has caught the authors interest in practice. There are three chapters on heart disease, and iron overload, cirrhosis, cancer epidemiology, neurotropic feet, and perinatal mortality each merit a short account. Dr. Isaacson is always interesting, though the discussion of perinatal mortality is too short to be informative. I am pleased to have this book on my shelf and if this review sounds somewhat disappointed it is because I had hoped for a pathology equivalent of the classic *The Sick African* by Gelfand. Alas it has still to be written.

G SLAVIN

A Colour Atlas of Bacillus Species. JMC Parry, PCB Turnbull, JR Gibson. (Pp 272; £25.) Wolfe Medical Publications Limited. 1983.

In the winter months, by the fireside, gardeners are taken on flights of fancy by the seed catalogues with their beautiful illustrations of flowers designed to seduce them into trying this or that next season. This atlas is very similar as the pictures of bacterial colonies rival those of the herbaceous border. Anyone interested in high quality photography coupled with beautiful reproduction on good quality paper should examine this book as an example of the art.

Although not perhaps the most important group of bacteria encountered in clinical laboratories, the *Bacillus* species have a nuisance value. Commonly encountered as contaminants but not well recognised at the species level they sometimes cause doubts at the bench because of the few species that are pathogenic or capable of assuming a pathogenic role. This atlas is a comprehensive illustrated catalogue of the genus but it is more than that for the various tests for identification of the *Bacillus* species are also described and illustrated, making this book both practical and ornamental. This should find its way on to the bookshelf not too far from the bench.

DM JONES

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