

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 inter-relationships 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

**Substance P.** Vol 3. Annual Research Reviews. Petr Skrabanek and David Powell. Series Ed DF Horrobin. (Pp 184; £30.25.) Eden Press. 1983.

## Correction

In the issue of October 1983 on page 1205, there are incorrect statements of the editorial position in two book reviews. The "Current Topics in Pathology" series is edited by CL Berry, E Grundmann and WH Kirsstein, but the individual reviews should read as follows:

**Bone and Joint Disease** Current Topics in Pathology. Vol 71. Ed CL Berry (Pp 307; £36.50) Springer-Verlag. 1982.

**Pathology of a Black African Population** Current Topics in Pathology. Vol 72 C Isaacson (Pp 152; illustrated; DM139) Springer-Verlag. 1982.