

**Radioimmunoassay of Gut Regulatory Peptides.** Ed SR Bloom and RG Long. (Pp 194; illustrated; £10.50.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1982.

This multi author book describes one expert laboratory's integrated approach to the assay of 13 naturally occurring gut regulatory peptides. It is based on teaching programmes on the methodology of radioimmunoassay techniques in use there; indeed the book might be described as an expanded methods section for the many papers on gut hormone physiology and pathology already published by this group. The text falls into two parts. One part deals briefly with principles and provides method details which are common to the assay of all 13 peptides. It also includes a description of the precautions taken to ensure assay validity. Much of this material is handed down as lore in established assay laboratories and it is useful to have it collected here. Thus there is a discussion of conditions for storing tissues for extraction and of non-specific plasma effects which may interfere in assays. In the other part, substances and their assay are considered individually with sections on gastrin, cholecystokinin, secretin pancreatic and enteroglucagons, pancreatic polypeptide, gastric inhibitory polypeptide, motilin, vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP), bombesin, somatostatin, neurotensin, and substance P. For each substance the book also includes information on the chemistry, physiology, and pathology as well as the laboratory's estimates of plasma and tissue concentrations. Realistically the authors note that differences between reagents in use in different centres are associated with variability between estimates obtained. A glossary provides some unusual definitions but is a feature which may be appreciated by non-medical readers. The presentation is good and the reviewer has few quibbles. One is that although the VIP assay described "provides an assay range for plasma of 5 to 500 pmol/l" estimates are reported in the range 0.5 to 4 pmol/l. Another is that it is surprising if an assay with a working range 2 to 200 pmol/l plasma is able to detect "changes of as little as 1 pmol/l with 95% confidence" overall parts of the dose range of the assay. The book is an authoritative report and a practical guide to one laboratory's present methods for estimating an important group of substances. It will be helpful to any one needing to set up or evaluate assays for the gut regulatory peptides and usefully summarises the chemistry and methodology

used by one laboratory to elucidate an area where recent advances have been made in endocrinology.

P MARY COTES

**Lymphomas other than Hodgkin's Disease.**

Ed AE Stuart, AG Stansfeld, I Lauder. (Pp 69; illustrated; £12.50.) Oxford University Press. 1981.

This is a welcome addition to a pathologist's bookshelf and particularly to one training for examinations as it covers one of the confused subjects in pathology at the moment.

The book gives a clear resumé of non-Hodgkin lymphoma classification. It begins with cytological recognition and continues with short accounts of the different classes of lymphoma according to the British National Lymphoma Pathology group. Alternative nomenclature allowing comparison with other classifications is given with each type of lymphoma. The book concludes with accounts of benign conditions which are commonly mistaken for lymphoma.

There are many illustrations with good quality black and white photomicrographs of each entity described. One would however liked to have at least one colour plate to show the plasmacytoid characteristics which do not show very well in black and white photographs.

The book is well bound and is hard backed, and makes it a well recommended hand book for the trainee and practising pathologist

JP MADDA

**Atlas of Pulmonary Pathology.** K Morgenroth, MT Newhouse, and D Nolte. (Pp 232; illustrated; £48.) Butterworths. 1982.

This is the second atlas in a series whose distinguishing feature is that they include three dimensional drawings to illustrate gross and microscopic anatomy. The atlas is not intended to be comprehensive but aims to provide insights into aspects of pulmonary pathophysiology.

The photographs of gross pathology, light microscopy of paraffin, and plastic sections, as well as scanning and transmission electron micrographs, are of an extremely high quality. The drawings are novel but by and large add little. The accompanying text is a good but sparse introduction to pulmonary pathology. It does not match the quality of the pictures

though it is refreshingly functional. There is no index.

The standard of illustration in this book may well seduce bookshop browsers into an immediate personal purchase. I think it would be more cost effective to induce the librarian to buy a copy and then borrow his.

G SLAVIN

**Advances in the Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease.** Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 98. Ed Roland B Scott. (Pp 180; illustrated; £17.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

A compilation of papers presented at the Tenth Annual Postgraduate Conference on Sickle Cell Disease at the Howard University Centre for Sickle Cell Disease, in September 1981 is contained in this book, and there are 14 papers covering different aspects of sickle cell disease. Four papers deal directly or indirectly with prenatal diagnosis, and include a review of DNA restriction analysis for the prenatal diagnosis, a discussion of advantages and disadvantages of amniocentesis and fetocopy, a review of counselling required, and an appraisal of evaluation of genetic counselling. Two articles cover some newer aspects of the pathophysiology of sickle cell disease, and four discuss a variety of management problems: pain, leg ulcers, pneumococcal vaccine, and overall management. Finally, blood transfusion in sickle cell disease is covered by four interesting articles including one on the use of cell separators and one on blood substitutes.

The book should appeal to a wide range of staff, medical and nursing, as well as the laboratory scientists. The variety of approaches is the book's main attraction, but also — to a certain extent — its failing, as the articles do not go into sufficient depth to appeal to the more specialised expert.

MILICA BROZOVIC

**Prenatal Diagnosis and Mechanisms of Teratogenesis.** Part A of Annual Review of Birth Defects 1981. March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Original Article Series, Vol 18. No 3A, 1982. (Pp 210; illustrated; £29.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation hold an annual conference the pro-

J Clin Pathol 1983; 36: 486-488

ceedings of which are published as Annual Reviews in their Birth Defects, Original Article Series. This volume covers that part of the 1981 conference devoted to teratogenesis, prenatal diagnosis, and miscellaneous topics headed perinatology. The contributions are overwhelmingly North American and Mexican and hence, with one exception, ignore the considerable European experience. They are mostly well written, making their points clearly and briefly, apart from the dreadful jargon of the final paper on the transport of mothers and babies.

There are 11 papers on teratogenesis ranging from experimental studies to clinical reports on maternal smoking, alcoholism, diabetes, and drug therapy. Ten contributions on prenatal diagnosis include discussions of screening and reports on the diagnosis of skeletal defects, chromosomal disorders, and a case of infantile polycystic kidney. They confirm the increasing use of ultrasound for prenatal diagnosis.

In conclusion, this book is a worthwhile investment for the library of at least a paediatric or clinical genetic unit, and perhaps the interested radiologist or pathologist.

M d'A CRAWFURD

**Cell Kinetics and Cancer Therapy.** Juliana Denekamp. (Pp 162; illustrated; \$24.75.) Charles C Thomas. 1982.

Although aimed at "filling the gap between specialist cell kineticists and radiotherapists and tumour biologists" this book, while not being an in-depth treatise on kinetics, makes assumptions only the kineticist can accept. Equations are introduced without explanation, eg  $\lambda$  on p 11 is never defined. On the other side it tends to be patronising, eg the description of autoradiography reads like a script for *Listen with Mother*. When the author's excitement moved me to note a reference—it wasn't listed. In fact the book's frequent, rather sloppy, features are its hallmark. References are missing. Graphs are inconsistently presented with radiation dose quoted alternately in rads and Grays. One section headed "Birth Rate" says nothing about this subject.

Presentation is good, errors are few, and there is a good distribution of references up to the present. Like other books on cell kinetics and therapy, this book does a good job of highlighting the many pitfalls and problems in marrying the two disciplines. It is perhaps significant that the concluding chapter on growing points is the most

encouraging; unfortunately it draws little on cell kinetics.

BI LORD

**Medical Microbiology.** Ed Samuel Baron. (Pp 952; illustrated; £16.95.) Addison-Wesley Publishers Limited. 1982.

This multi-authored textbook is set out along traditional lines. There is an initial section of 100 pages covering the general aspects of immunology (not only related to infection) followed by the bulk of the text which is composed of chapters on each of the medically important bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites, and finally a very short section on microbiology of organ systems. The initial chapters on each group of organisms cover briefly the structure, classification, cultivation, pathogenesis, genetics, and host defences of bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites respectively. The individual chapters are quite uneven. Those which consider each organism in turn on the whole succeed but those which endeavour to consider the whole genus (for example *Staphylococcus* and *Streptococcus*) have the reader very confused. In the Preface, the editor acknowledges that no textbook can meet all needs and notes that the text was designed to offer optimal assistance to the student studying the principles of microbiology. For students in the United Kingdom this object is not fulfilled. For medical students there is insufficient coverage of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease caused by microorganisms, and for non-medical students of medical microbiology there is insufficient discription of the organisms.

ELIZABETH SHAW

**Diagnostic Electron Microscopy.** Jan Vincents Johannessen. (Pp 210; illustrated; \$34.50) Hemisphere Publishing Corporation. 1982.

The idea of having an electron micrograph "slide seminar" as a sort of programmed learning text is a good one. This book consists of a series of histopathological cases presented so that the reader can participate actively in the learning process by attempting to identify subcellular structures and interpret ultrastructural appearances for himself and then compare his answers with those given on the next page.

Unfortunately the good intentions do not work out too well in practice. Many of the structures labelled are too small or not

clearly enough visible in the published prints to be identifiable by the novice electron microscopist and often the questions asked are not specifically answered in the text. Nevertheless those concerned with training juniors in diagnostic electron microscopy may find it a useful tool although being presented with first the ultrastructure and then the light microscopy may be a trifle disconcerting and not desirable in the working situation.

JULIE CROW

**Colorectal Cancer. Recent Results in Cancer Research.** Vol 83. Ed W Duncan. (Pp 156; illustrated; DM 92/US \$40.90.) Springer. 1982.

These are the collected papers of the 3rd Symposium on Clinical Oncology organised by the Royal College of Radiologists. There are 12 contributions covering aspects of the aetiology, histopathology, diagnosis, and treatment of colorectal cancer. The scientific standard is high and this book adequately satisfies the needs of anyone requiring an easily accessible and concise account of the present position of colorectal cancer research. Apart from the more scientific contributions, pathologists could read with advantage the clinical sections on early diagnosis and surgical treatment in particular, for in these can be seen how much our colleagues depend on the contribution made by the surgical pathologist. The complex subject of Cell Kinetics is distilled into a thoroughly readable and digestible form, but the sections on the Epidemiology of Colorectal Cancer are perhaps the least inspiring in what is otherwise a very useful monograph.

BC MORSON

**Skeletal Muscle Pathology.** Ed Frank L Mastaglia and Sir John Walton. (Pp 648; illustrated; £45.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

Skeletal muscle pathology is a field which has advanced rapidly in recent years mainly because it is particularly dependent on new techniques. The usual standard paraffin sections are often of limited value, which has served to give muscle biopsy a bad name among some neurologists. Things are now changing and most clinicians are well aware of the help the pathologist can give.

This is one of the first large texts to bring together satisfactorily skeletal muscle pathology at light, histochemical,