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 λ 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 micro-organisms, 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,

biochemical, and ultra-structural level. It helps one to look at the muscle fibre and understand how various processes affect it.

There is a particularly good chapter on pathological reactions, with good illustrations of the changes and a discussion of their cause. One thing the working pathologist might welcome in this context is a short description of artefacts produced by poor surgery and indifferent handling of the specimen. These are obvious when gross, but difficult to interpret if minimal. The rest of the volume contains 21 chapters devoted to specific muscle diseases, written by workers who in most cases have themselves contributed to the field. Most of the illustrations are of a high standard and there are a large number of references.

This is an important bench book on a growing field of pathology.

BARBARA SMITH

New Approaches to Laboratory Medicine. Ed SB Rosalki. (Pp 186; illustrated; DM 29.80.) G-I-T Verlag Ernst Giebel. 1981.

The papers reported in this volume are divided into three sections, New Approaches to Quality Control, New Approaches to Immunochemistry, and New Approaches to The Identification of Cells. The papers on quality control refer almost entirely to haematological problems and a paper by Vincent Marks and his colleagues on antibody diversity will be of interest to all engaged in radioimmunoassay. Other interesting papers in the immunochemistry section include one by SB Rosalki on immunochemical enzyme systems, and one on monoclonal antibodies as blood typing reagents. There are a number of papers on immunocytochemical identification of cells and other related topics.

This volume provides a number of insights into fields which are growing rapidly and will be of most value to the pathologist who wishes to keep an eye on developments outside his own immediate interest.

MG RINSLER

Clinical Neuropathology. RO Weller, M Swash, DL McLellan, and CL Scholtz. (Pp 329; 209 figs; DM 100/£23.50.) Springer-Verlag. 1982.

The close relationship between neuropathology, clinical neurology, neurosurgery, and neuroradiology is emphasised in this book. It is edited by two neuropathologists and two neurologists and there are thirteen contributors from a

broad spectrum of the neurosciences.

Introductory chapters deal with the historical background of neurology and neuropathology, histological and anatomical concepts, the interpretation of neurological symptoms and signs, and the basic pathological reactions of the nervous system. These are followed by more detailed accounts of cerebrovascular disease, trauma, neoplasia, infection, developmental and neonatal neuropathology, metabolic disorders, in-born lysosomal storage disorders, hereditary and system disorders, dementia, diseases of peripheral nerve, and diseases of muscle. Relatively more space is allocated to areas in which substantial recent advances have been made such as metabolic disorders and pituitary neoplasia. At the end of each chapter there are a few relevant references for further reading.

This book is nicely produced and well illustrated by a mixture of diagrams and clear black and white photographs. It is not a detailed account of neuropathology and will not solve many of the problems of the specialist. However, it is well written, readable, and maintains perspective of the role of neuropathology in clinical practice. It should be of widespread interest, particularly to trainee pathologists, general pathologists, clinical teachers, and clinical neurologists and neurosurgeons.

WR TIMPERLEY

Advances in Immunology. Vol 33. Ed HG Kunkel and FJ Dixon. (Pp 367; illustrated; \$45.00.) Academic Press Inc. 1982.

This is another in the excellent series edited by Drs Kunkel and Dixon. Like most of its predecessors this volume is largely of interest to professional immunologists. The first chapter is potentially an interesting one to clinicians since it deals with the influence of the X chromosome on immunity. However, it deals mainly with immune responses in mice in a manner which has little to help clinical understanding. It unfortunately leaves out the interesting work on the influence of sex hormones on the development of the autoimmune disease in NZB mice. The next chapter on the biology of monoclonal lymphokines is likewise mainly of interest to those working in this particular field. The chapter by Eng Tan on antibodies to nuclear antigens on the other hand is topical and of much interest to clinicians and clinical pathologists. It has some excellent illustrations, and gives a good account of these antigen-antibody systems and their clinical significance. The last two chapters on the contact system of plasma, and on the bind-

ing of bacteria to lymphocyte subpopulations revert again to the interests of the pure scientist, although holding promise for the future for understanding some clinical conditions.

For Immunology and Pathology libraries this is a must, although only the enthusiast is likely to want this particular volume at its present price for his or her personal shelves.

RA THOMPSON

Some new titles

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

Guidelines for the Control of Leptospirosis. WHO Offset Publication no 64. Ed S Faine. (Pp 176; Sw fr 15.) World Health Organisation. 1982.

Handbook of Clinical Chemistry. Vol 3. CRC Series in Clinical Laboratory Science. Ed Mario Werner. (Pp 559; illustrated; \$110.) CRC Press Inc. 1982.

Commentaries on Research in Breast Disease. Vol 2. Ed RD Bulbrook and D Jarnal Taylor. (Pp 180; illustrated; £22.) Alan Liss Inc. 1981.

Chemicals, Industrial Processes and Industries Associated with Cancer in Humans. IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals in Humans, Supplement 4. IARC Monographs vols 1-29. (Pp 467; Sw fr 60.) World Health Organisation. 1982.

Notice

Second International Workshop on Campylobacter Infections

The Second International Workshop on Campylobacter Infections will be held in Brussels on 6-9 September 1983, under the auspices of the Free University of Brussels. The British Public Health Laboratory Service and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dacca. Copy the date for contributions is 16 April 1983, and should be sent to Dr AD Pearson, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Level B, South Block, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton SO9 4XY. Telephone number 0703 776177. Telex: 47669 SHAMQY or 47674-MATCOM G.