malignant melanoma of skin, oral cavity, larynx, upper airodigestive tract, lung, thyroid, oesophagus, stomach, colon and rectum, bladder and prostate. As might be expected the most definite ideas are expressed in relation to the cervix. On the other hand minimal cancer of the ovary is a very woolly concept with little to recommend its inclusion. Nevertheless, this book will provide interesting and informative reading to pathologists whose work involves tumours in any of these fields, which surely includes most of us.

MC ANDERSON

Essentials of Clinical Biochemistry. DN Baron. (Pp 292; $26·95.) Elsevier. 1982.

It is often difficult to review a new edition of a standard text book, especially one as popular as Dennis Baron's Essentials (or, for the English market, Short Text Book) of Chemical Pathology. It is worthwhile re-appraising such a book in view of its stated aims, in the light of current knowledge, and whether it reflects current practice in laboratories.

The overall impression of the book is that Professor Baron has attempted to produce a book in line with current practice in laboratories whilst describing some tests which are now seldom performed. The book is designed to help medical students and doctors and to prepare doctors for the initial higher examinations in chemical pathology. Whilst medical students may have to know much of the material for examination purposes it does not help the SHO or Registrar preparing for the Primary examination to have no reference to the investigation of infertility by, for example, prolactin determinations, but to be given details of tests such as outmoded urinary steroids and Lange tests which are now rarely used. The majority of references for further reading are pre 1977. The best parts of the book are those which give advice to House Officers and medical students on the submission of specimens for analysis and the investigation of possible abnormalities.

In summary a comprehensive book but not altogether fulfilling its stated aims.

T HARGREAVES

The Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease. 5th ed. Ed JB Stanbury, JB Wyngaarden, DS Fredrickson, JL Goldstein and MS Brown. (Pp 2032; £69·95.) McGraw-Hill. 1983.

"Stanbury, Wyngaarden and Fredrickson" is well established as the standard text in its field. The new edition complements its predecessors rather than entirely replacing them. It reflects the considerable recent advances in the subject, especially in genetic aspects of disease, as shown by the presence of two geneticists as additional editors. Other changes include an expanded list of contributors, over half of them being new; innovatory introductory chapters on molecular biology and histocompatibility; and the introduction of fourteen new diseases and relegation to summary form of ten old ones. Generally contributions discuss developing aspects such as prenatal diagnosis and genetic heterogeneity. Bibliographies are mostly fairly up to date.

My own selection of contributions worth highlighting includes the reviews of diabetes mellitus, phenylketonuria, familial hyperlipoproteinaemias and hypercholesterolaemia, mucopolysaccharidosis, and steroid sulphatase deficiency. Inevitably some of the most recent advances fail to get included, as for example the development of cDNA probes for the defective gene in Lesch-Nyhan disease[1] and in contrast the clarification of the neurological abnormalities in that disease.[2]

In conclusion this book continues to be an essential reference volume for pathologists, especially chemical pathologists, geneticists, and clinicians or research workers in metabolic medicine.

M d'A CRAWFORD

[1]Jolly *et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1983;**80**:477–81.
[2]Watts *et al. Q J Med* 1982;**51**(NS):43–78.

Isozymes. Current Topics in Biological and Medical Research. Vol 6. Ed Mario C Rattazzi, John G Scandalios, and Gregory S Whitt. (Pp 297; £44.) Alan R Liss. 1982.

As with earlier volumes of this now well-established series, the range of topics reviewed in the present volume is wide. Therefore the individual articles will be of greater or lesser interest to chemical pathologists and clinical biochemists, depending on their individual areas of interest. However "The Genetic Basis of Alkaline Phosphatase Isozyme Expression" (T Stigbrand, JL Millan and WH Fishman) is of general interest, and "Isozymes of Phosphofructokinase" (S Vora) will also appeal to a wide readership. "The Significance of Isozyme Structural Differences in Evolution, Physiology and Aging" (RW Gracy) is also of direct clinical interest. Other articles, such as "Gel Electrophoresis and Cryptic Protein Variation" (JA Coyne), "Evolutionary Change of Duplicate Genes" (Wen-Hsiung Li) and "Linkage of Mammalian Isozyme Loci—A Comparative Approach" (James E Womack) will appeal more directly to the molecular geneticist.

The reviews maintain the high standards of previous volumes, and each is supported by an up-to-date and comprehensive list of references.

DW MOSS

Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine. 7th ed. PL Mollison. (Pp 988; £32·50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1983.

It is a pleasure to see a 7th Edition of this important text book which has served the needs of haematologists and transfusionists for many years. The new edition has been updated to include recent observations. A pleasing feature is the reference to historical aspects of the subject which stimulates the readers interest. The chapters and layout have been rearranged in a connected sequence and, where appropriate, sections have been expanded. There can be no doubt that this is a very fine text book which should be on the shelves and be continually read and consulted by those wishing a detailed and clear understanding of modern blood transfusion practice. Possession of such a book is a wise and sound investment.

R MITCHELL