The volume contains a wealth of interesting information and a comprehensive bibliography.

Sadly it is a very unattractive publication because of the use of photographic techniques. Do we blame the contributors for not obeying instructions, or the publishers for not instructing? I do not know.

J HUME ADAMS

Interpretation of Liver Biopsies. Richard J Stenger. Biopsy Interpretation Series. (Pp 175; \$42.50.) Raven Press. 1983.

This slim volume is divided into sixteen concise chapters each with about three pages of text, nine half-page black and white illustrations of good quality, and about twenty-five up-to-date and relevant references. The chapter headings are traditional.

The text is well written and provides a lucid account of the basic pathology of liver disease, supplemented by a good range of well-chosen illustrations. It is very concise and few subjects extend beyond a single paragraph. No previous pathological knowledge is implied and throughout, despite the title, the emphasis is descriptive rather than interpretative, giving the impression that the author is showing what can be achieved with a liver biopsy rather than how to achieve it. Of his intended audience I think these qualities should prove ideal for clinicians and trainees in gastroenterology and general medicine. Pathologists, on the other hand, might feel that there is insufficient discussion of morphological problems, especially those concerned with differential diagnosis. This book should fill an important niche as an introduction to liver pathology for clinicians, but it cannot really be recommended as a bench book for pathologists.

DGD WIGHT

Blood Cell Volume Analysis. A New Screening Technology for the Haematologist. RM Rowan. (Pp 97; £5.) Albert Clark & Co. Limited. 1983.

Earlier in this century blood cell size distributions, such as the Price-Jones curve, were in vogue. But the sheer tedium of producing them with a microscope and the

errors involved meant that the technique fell into disuse. The present generation of automated haematological instruments has reversed this process since it is now possible to obtain objective and precise size distributions of red cells, leucocytes, and platelets as part of the routine full blood count. Haematologists will therefore have to re-learn the earlier work and keep abreast of the newer developments. Dr Rowan's book provides an ideal guide. The opening chapter reviews the historical aspects. There is then a detailed account of the Coulter Model S Plus series of instruments followed by three chapters on the application of these counters to red cell, leucocyte, and platelet volume distribution analysis.

I am sure that this work will be constantly used in laboratories with a Coulter Model S Plus. It will also be of value to a wider readership since many of the basic principles are relevant to the other automated blood counters.

JM ENGLAND

Principles and Practice of Surgical Pathology. Vols I and II. Ed Steven G Silverberg. (Pp 1656; £124.50.) John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 1983.

Professor Silverberg's textbook of surgical pathology consists of 1656 pages and is in two volumes. Now there is significant morbidity attached to works in two volumes for they are a source of constant irritation and the latter I believe is atherogenic. The irritation is provoked by getting out of the chair, reaching up to the shelf, pulling down a heavy volume and—you've guessed—its the wrong damned one. Principles and Practice of Surgical Pathology overcomes this hazard by a simple method. On the spine of one volume is written "Below SNOP: 56/SNOMED: 56,000", and on the other "From SNOP: 56/SNOMED 56,000". Assuming you know your SNOP/SNOMED topography you need never open the wrong volume again. Surely a recommendation to purchase this reference work.

Eighty six authors are involved in the 52 chapters, the majority being American. The initial part of the book has some interesting general chapters, for example, the differential diagnosis of metastatic tumours and a chapter on the organisation of the laboratory. It then moves into a more standard format with accounts of pathology

system by system. The largest organ systems are broken up into separate chapters separating either medical from surgical conditions, or neoplastic from non-neoplastic lesions. The book is laid out with two columns to a page but sadly many of the photomicrographs are limited to one column which means many are too small to be of value. It is not therefore a book for those who like to picture match. However, a feature of many of the chapters is the presence of useful lists and charts.

I must confess I have not read these volumes systematically but have kept each by my side during diagnostic reporting for several months and used them as the first source of reference whenever a problem arose. I have been most impressed and always found enough information either to solve the problem or refer me to suitable recent references.

As one cannot keep pace with the ever increasing numbers of specialist titles, comprehensive accounts like these two volumes plug the many holes. Several general textbooks of varying quality are on the market and I think this belongs with those in the first division. If you have the money, Professor Silverberg's textbooks are a good buy that will keep you one jump ahead of any threatening clinician, and using the comprehensive reference list, two jumps.

AB PRITCH

Antibiotic Associated Diarrhoea and Colitis. Ed S Peter Borriello. Developments in Gastroenterology. (Pp 179; £24.25.) Martinus Nijhoff. 1984.

Establishment of the aetiological role of *Cl difficile* in antibiotic-associated pseudomembranous colitis some seven years ago stimulated a great deal of important research, and this is reflected in the ever-growing literature on all aspects of the problem. Now, it is a pleasure to welcome into one's library a definitive monograph on the subject, with major contributors from centres of excellence in the UK, Sweden and the USA.

In his introduction the Editor, Dr SP Borriello, writes that "an attempt has been made to collate the information available on all the different aspects of *Cl difficile* and the gastrointestinal diseases associated with it". The attempt is very successful, for in a mere 150 pages of type-script text the contributors usefully review the literature

in their own particular areas of interest, and provide up-to-date and readable accounts of the different facets of the problem.

Dr Borriello himself has contributed four excellent chapters on microbiological aspects; *Cl difficile* toxins are expertly reviewed by Drs Lyerly and Wilkins (Virginia Polytechnic Institute, USA) and Drs Thelestam and Florin (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm); while Dr Fekety (Ann Arbor, Michigan) provides an excellent account of experimental animal models. Authoritative contributions by Dr Tedesco (Medical College of Georgia, USA), Drs George and Mulligan (Wadsworth Medical Center, LA, USA) and Dr Burdon (Birmingham, UK) provide a splendid balance of clinical information, covering the spectrum of the disease, epidemiological considerations, aetiology, diagnosis, and management. An informative chapter by Dr Price (Northwick Park Hospital, UK) describes the pathology of the disease. The whole text is supported by some 350 well-chosen end references.

The publication is prepared from camera-ready copy and its physical presentation lacks any sort of uniformity. The chapters by Drs George and Mulligan were clearly prepared on a word processor; the other chapters illustrate the diversity of type faces available on departmental type writers! An element of gay abandon creeps into the editing in some places, where "Tipp-Ex" corrections are prominent, and even the left hand margin does not always justify. There is no uniformity of chapter lay-out or heading values, and there is no index. I would have expected a "fair copy" for the asking price of £24.25.

But don't be put off by the very amateur presentation of the text, skilfully concealed as it is in a handsomely bound volume. For those who are concerned with antibiotic associated diarrhoea and colitis this is essential reading.

AT WILLIS

Recent Advances in Histopathology. No 12. Ed PP Anthony and RNM MacSween. (Pp 293; £18.) Churchill Livingstone. 1984.

This is a very worthy addition to the series of Recent Advances in Histopathology. The contents of this volume more than adequately satisfy the expectations of those of us who have long-awaited its publication

with heightened anticipation. The concise yet lucid style with which the book has been compiled conceals an enormous wealth of detailed information, while combining expertise with interest.

There are two features of particular note concerning this volume: the first is the very wide range of subjects examined—such that the generalist and specialist alike should each find items of relevance and interest. The included subjects range from the use of monoclonal antibodies through aspects of liver and gastrointestinal disease, to the pathology of brain damage and muscle disease. The second, and probably most significant feature, is the continuing trend away from static descriptive morphology and towards a functional and dynamic approach to pathological processes. Although present throughout the volume, this altered attitude is exemplified by the chapters concerning apoptosis and cell proliferation in health and disease.

This book is essential reading for all those who seriously intend to maintain a high level of understanding and to keep abreast of current trends in histopathology. It is excellent value at the current price.

CS FOSTER

Myocarditis Cardiomyopathy. Selected Problems of Pathogenesis and Clinic. Ed H Just and HP Schuster. (Pp 316; Soft cover DM 140; US \$54.40.) Springer. 1983.

This book is derived from a symposium of the same title, held in Mainz, and covers a wide range of topics including, unexpectedly, congenital right ventricular dysplasia.

Most of the authors are from German centres but their contributions have (presumably) been very well translated and are clear and easy to read. Illustrations are perfectly adequate too, even at ultrastructure magnifications.

Most readers of this journal will not be interested in the electrophysiology and therapeutics which form a substantial part of the volume, but there are also stimulating reviews and studies on correlations between infections and subsequent cardiomyopathy and in the possible role of auto-immunity and genetic predisposition.

While few pathologists will consider this book worth buying, those interested in heart disease should find it worth borrowing.

ARIELA POMERANCE

Lung Biopsy Interpretation. Eugene J Mark. (Pp 284; £37.) Williams & Wilkins. 1984.

Eugene Mark is well known for his excellent contributions to the CPC's in the New England Journal of Medicine and papers on pulmonary pathology. It is pleasing that his experience is distilled into this monograph.

The volume gives many tricks of the trade for trainees, such as the best place to find tubercle bacilli and how to distinguish *P carinii* from red blood corpuscles. Differential diagnosis on a light microscope level is to the fore and it is obvious that the author has suffered the loneliness of the microscope and worried about diagnostic problems. He discusses and gives diagnostic tables on how to differentiate many pulmonary problems. Relatively little use is made of immunoperoxidase techniques. There are no electron micrographs, which is unusual, since this technique can assist in diagnosis. Little attempt is made, as implicit in the title, to consider the aetiology or clinical features of the disease considered.

The reviewer found some of the illustrations and the referencing annoying. Some black and white pictures were out of focus, a few were at too low a magnification, and one had constantly to refer to the back for the colour pictures. The references at the end of each chapter were not repeated. Thus, important articles on lung disease in the immunosuppressed patient were found at the end of the chapter on Technical Considerations—not the first place one would normally look. However despite these relatively minor drawbacks, the book has a very useful place by the pathologist's microscope.

PS HASLETON

Edema. Ed Norman C Staub and Aubrey E Taylor. (Pp 786; \$180.00.) Raven Press. 1984.

This book must represent the definitive work on oedema with 30 chapters by multidisciplinary authors. The editors have adopted a uniform nomenclature which makes for easier reading. Their claim that this will be useful to "advanced physiology students, beginning investigators seeking new directions for their investigations, and the physicians and scientists involved in research on oedema and its clinical management" would seem to be justified.