

roscopy, X ray spectrometry, and other microprobe techniques. Clearly, many of these techniques are only available in specialised centres but atomic absorption spectrophotometry is used in many service laboratories. In fact the analysis of aluminium in biological material is far from simple, especially in respect of sample preparation and the prevention of contamination. All of these aspects are well covered in the various reviews together with important consideration on the quality assurance of aluminium analyses and interlaboratory comparisons. In addition, there are interesting contributions on the analysis of aluminium in other materials such as hair, the speciation of aluminium in plasma, and its interaction with macromolecules.

These proceedings offer a valuable source of interesting and useful information to chemical pathologists, haematologists, and histopathologists concerned with the clinical problems arising from aluminium toxicity. The volume should be essential reading for any laboratory intending to commence work on the measurement of aluminium. This is a timely and inexpensive review of an important problem: highly recommended.

RA BRAITHWAITE

**Colour Atlas of Neuropathology.** RO Weller. (Pp 207; 440 illustrations in colour; £42.) Oxford University Press. 1984.

There have been a number of neuropathology textbooks published recently written mainly for general pathologists. This is the latest and by far the best, combining brain, peripheral nerve, and muscle histology in the same volume. Professor Weller has managed to find good examples of some rather rare conditions as well as the standard material. He has shown the value and the necessity of special techniques, including resin sections and some immunocytochemistry in neurological diagnosis.

The muscle section in particular is well illustrated and shows that without these techniques muscle biopsy is of limited value. In the peripheral nerve section he illustrates the importance of resin sections but not the use of osmium, which is easier for most departments than the methods he does show, and there are no teased preparations of segmental demyelination.

The brain section, although slightly shorter than other texts in this field, does contain all the general pathologists needs to know, and the juxtaposition of smears and sections of brain tumours is helpful.

The colour of the pictures is of high quality throughout and, although it is expensive, the pathologist is getting information which would normally need three textbooks.

BARBARA SMITH

**History of Clinical Cytology.** A Selection of Documents. 2nd ed. H Grunze and AI Spriggs. (Pp 206; US\$45.00.) G-I-T Verlag Ernst Giebler. 1983.

This is a most enjoyable book. A brief account of the original scientific observations is followed by the story of those early workers who applied their observations to clinical conditions. Most of the book, however, is devoted to developments in clinical cytology in the past 150 years. One is impressed by the diversity of character and professional background of those who made major contributions. The authors have succeeded in capturing their enthusiasm and passionate attention to detail, and the book is elegantly illustrated in the many reproductions of early illustrations. While this is not in any sense a textbook, it demonstrates repeatedly the importance of accurate observation, the value of the correlation of clinical, cytological, and histopathological findings, and the need for critical review of diagnoses. For these reasons and, especially, perhaps because it encourages anyone entering the field to share the authors' lifelong enthusiasm for their subject, the book can be recommended to the library of any department practising diagnostic clinical cytology.

HELENA E HUGHES

**Muscle Pathology.** Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol 3. Ed Reid R Heffner. (Pp 235; £33.) Churchill Livingstone. 1984.

The stated intention of the fourteen authors of "Muscle Pathology" was to write a book for practising pathologists and in many respects they have succeeded in this aim. Most texts on muscle disease are clinically orientated and cover mainly the neurological aspects of the disease; this book, on the other hand, gives a broad view of muscle pathology. There are two succinct and well-written chapters on focal inflammatory disease of muscle and neoplasms of skeletal muscle; these aspects are usually omitted from other books on muscle pathology. The early chapters deal briefly with the clinical aspects of muscle disease and the techniques of histological and histochemical preparation. There is a

useful chapter on morphometric analysis of biopsies and a helpful section on the general pathology of muscle. Some authors express an individualistic but stimulating approach to muscle pathology, especially in the chapter on core-genic myopathies. Overall, this recent edition to the contemporary issues in Surgical Pathology offers a new approach to muscle disease, and this volume will be a useful introduction and reference text to most histopathologists.

RO WELLES

**Cardiac Pathology.** An Integrated Text and Colour Atlas. Anton E Becker and Robert H Anderson. (£48.) Churchill Livingstone. 1984.

The book is divided into two sections. The first consists of 16 chapters and concisely describes acquired disorders of the cardiovascular system. It also includes an excellent chapter on the related changes seen within the lungs and illustrates well the histological features in pulmonary hypertension.

The second part is devoted to congenital heart disease. This is covered in greater detail than is usual in an atlas and, studied, a considerable understanding can be gained of an often confusing subject. The author's approach is logical and based on simple anatomical concepts and the terminology used is defined within the initial chapters devoted to this subject.

The text is liberally illustrated and the quality of the photographs is outstanding, both of gross and microscopic specimens. Throughout the text simple line drawings are used to complement the photographs and this makes a very effective teaching method. The range of specimens illustrated is excellent, based on the combined experience of the two authors.

This book will be of great value to students of pathology at all stages of their career. Those beginning will find it a useful introduction on the physical signs to look for when examining a heart; those taking examinations will find it useful as an easily digested review.

The book is good value for money and strongly recommended for purchase by the departmental library.

SARAH HILL

**Perinatal Pathology.** Major Problems in Pathology Series. Vol 15. JS Wigglesworth. (Pp 480; £42.50.) WB Saunders Company. 1984.

In this book the author sets out to provide practical information on a difficult subject.

## Book reviews

and includes chapters on the causes and classification of perinatal death, performance of a perinatal autopsy, and an approach to malformation syndromes before moving on to the systemic pathology of perinatal disease. All of these are concise and written in an engaging style. The reader is referred to more specialised works for fine detail.

Perinatal autopsies may be the only exposure of many pathologists to paediatric conditions. Many of them will already have books on paediatric pathology and diseases of the placenta. That should not stop them buying this one.

D LOWE

**Disorders of Fluid and Electrolyte Balance.** RN Walmsley and MD Guerin. (Pp 275; £7.95.) John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1984.

This book, which covers more than its title might imply, presents a didactic but logical approach to commonly encountered derangements of body fluid, electrolyte, and acid-base status, the major exceptions being those seen in paediatrics, dialysis, and parenteral nutrition. After describing normal homeostasis it discusses the abnormalities seen in disease in terms of disturbed physiology and offers a practical approach to the evaluation of the laboratory findings and treatment. The wealth of clinical experience of the Australian authors is reflected in the numerous case reports which are quoted to illustrate the patterns of laboratory findings and the problems that arise in interpreting them.

Being a relatively compact book covering a large area the text reduces to note form in places, so the reader must be prepared to think as he reads. However, its sound, practical, and up to date approach to subjects that many find difficult make it attractive, and I confidently recommend it as rewarding reading to medical students, clinicians, and chemical pathologists who want to have a better understanding of the biochemical abnormalities seen in so many patients. It is well produced, has a useful index, and will undoubtedly be much used wherever it is made available.

FV FLYNN

**Mechanisms of Alcohol Damage in utero.** Ciba Foundation Symposium 105. (Pp 296; £26.50.) The Ciba Foundation. 1984.

This book contains the proceedings of a recent Ciba Foundation Symposium concerned with the clinico-pathological aspects of the fetal alcohol syndrome and the biological basis of ethanol toxicity.

The clinical picture of the fetal alcohol syndrome is well recognised although reports of UK cases only emerged recently as 1982. The follow-up study from West Berlin was therefore of particular interest: the dysmorphic features appear to regress, neurophysiological abnormalities improve, but the children perform poorly at school due to hyperactivity and distractibility. Numerically, lesser degrees of ethanol toxicity are more important and it has been suggested that up to 10% of all children with mild mental retardation are due to maternal alcoholism.

Side by side with these important psycho-sociological reports are results of basic neuropathological and biochemical studies of ethanol toxicity. Trace metals, immunological mechanisms, nutritional factors, neuroendocrine aspects, and synergism with smoking are all considered in detail. Several potential animal models were considered and results from these experiments related to the human disorder. The epidemiological and preventative aspects of the syndrome were fully aired.

Each chapter is a gem and this book is undoubtedly the definitive current work in this area. It is highly recommended.

TJ PETERS

**Medical Microbiology.** Vol 1. Ed CSF Easmon and J Jeljaszewicz. (Pp 462; £32.) Academic Press. 1982.

This is the first of an "open-ended series of major review articles... of interest to medical microbiologists and their veterinary colleagues". The present volume consists of papers chosen for their topicality and general interest, with no particular theme. The eleven subjects are as diverse as antibiotic-associated colitis, contagious equine metritis, legionellosis, and immunostimulatory and antineoplastic activities of propionibacteria.

The first reaction of a reviewer to this daunting task was to read the first of these reviews with much interest and then to put the book down. Various colleagues then took up the assignment and individually reported in terms that ranged from admirable to disappointing. It often happens that a wide-ranging enterprise produces a range of quality and an uneasy mixture of general excellence and personal bias that defeats the best of editors.

There is much useful information in this book, but it is an expensive volume; a specialist reader is unlikely to be tempted

to pay this price for a limited number of chapters in such a mixture. Perhaps the editors and publishers will be more successful with a series related to a common theme.

JG COLLEE

**Pathology of the Colon, Small Intestine, and Anus.** Ed H Thomas Norris. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol 2. (Pp 338; £37.) Churchill Livingstone. 1983.

This compact volume is packed with valuable information for the diagnostic histopathologist with excellent chapters on the differential diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease and a detailed appraisal of low-grade and high-grade dysplasia in rectal biopsies. Clinical relevance is taken into account since the term "Fulminant Colitis" is preferred to that of "Toxic Megacolon" and the difficulty in discriminating between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease in this stage is openly acknowledged. There is a gratifying account of the interpretation of jejunal biopsies in malabsorption syndromes enhanced by appropriate illustrations. The distinguished list of contributors clarify each topic and provide reference lists which corroborate their views and stimulate further reading. Close attention to technique is emphasised throughout the text and the illustrations support this contention. It was refreshing to read such an up to date account from our American colleagues and I strongly recommend it to all pathologists who report intestinal specimens.

H THOMPSON

**Latent Dyslipoproteinemias and Atherosclerosis.** Ed JL de Gennes, J Polonovski, and R Paoletti. (Pp 334; \$52.50.) Raven Press. 1983.

The definition of hyperlipidaemia is a source of considerable difficulty because of the continuous relationship between lipid levels and risk of coronary heart disease. The problem is made more difficult by the recognition dealt with in this book that abnormalities of lipid transport in plasma, without conspicuous hyperlipidaemia, appear to influence the risk of cardiovascular disease. This volume is a conference report including discussions of familial high density lipoprotein deficiency and hyperapobetalipoproteinaemia. There are also reviews of the subclasses of the familiar lipoprotein entities, low density lipoprotein, and high density lipoprotein. Among the most valuable contributions are reviews