

## 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

by Mahley and Grundy on metabolism of apolipoproteins E and B respectively. Although the standard is uneven, as is usual with conference reports, this book is a helpful introduction for the young scientist entering research in atherosclerosis and contains significant new data for the specialised research worker.

C CORTESE

**Biology and Pathology of the Vessel Wall.** A Modern Appraisal. Ed Neville Woolf. (Pp 351; £17.50.) Praeger, 1983.

The proceedings of a two-day symposium organized by the Royal College of Pathologists are contained in this book. The contributions fall under the five main headings of the physiology of the vessel wall, blood-vessel wall interactions, the vessel wall in disease, the epidemiology of atheroma, and the pathology of atheroma. There are 48 authors, nearly all of whom have world reputations in their subjects. In these circumstances, it is rather invidious to single out particular contributions. Nevertheless, Professor Gresham's chapter on "The Transplanted Vessel" deals with a new but increasingly important topic on which not much has so far been written. Another example of the wide-ranging coverage is the inclusion of a chapter on blood vessels and blood pressure. It is surprising how often blood pressure and its effects are either overlooked or regarded as a side issue in terms of vessel wall pathology.

The field is one that is changing all the time—in many respects, very rapidly. Even so, this book is well worth consulting either for reference purposes or for authoritative accounts of particular topics.

TW MEADE

**Immuno Enzyme Techniques in Cytochemistry.** Wolf D Kuhlmann. (Pp 170; DM 128.) Verlag Chemie. 1984.

There is a great deal of information in this compact volume. In it the author reviews the basic concepts of immunocytochemistry and describes the associated technology in great depth. In the early chapters he describes the techniques employed in the preparation and checking of immunological reagents. Subsequently he describes their use in immunolocalisation techniques.

In the description of techniques the author uses his own field of research as a framework for discussion. While in this way he gives an accurate account of his own practical experience which, judging by his

photographs and descriptions have clearly given some elegant results, he leaves some other aspects of the subject insufficiently covered. For example one is left without an awareness of the wide variety of situations where the use of proteolytic enzymes can be of great value in recovering antigen expression in fixed tissues. Another important omission is the absence of any discussion of enzymes such as bovine intestinal alkaline phosphatase or *E coli* beta galactosidase as alternatives to horseradish peroxidase as antibody labels. The techniques are clearly explained and easy to follow. One of the best aspects of this book is the excellent reference lists at the end of each chapter.

This book does not replace pre-existing handbooks on the subject but would be useful used in conjunction with the more comprehensive manuals in that it looks at some aspect of the subject in greater depth.

LYNDA G BOBROW

**Pathophysiology of Blood.** Ed AA MacKinney. (Pp 363; paperback £22.70.) John Wiley. 1984.

Haematology is frequently taught badly in medical schools, so this lively undergraduate text from the University of Wisconsin comes as a breath of fresh air.

Each of the 17 chapters is a didactic review of an aspect of haematology where normal physiology is followed by diseases associated with its derangement and "case development problems" which are written exercises to assess the reader's understanding. In content there is an admitted bias to the red cell "because it is so well understood" but other subjects are adequately covered. A mixed blessing is an attached (or rather unattached) microfiche of colour photomicrographs illustrating cell morphology. This needs special viewing facilities and one can imagine it would get lost as it is a loose appendage.

While aimed at undergraduates this book would be equally well suited to postgraduates in view of the detail it contains. This is just as well as they are more likely to be able to afford it.

JS LILLETYMAN

## Notices

### Histochemical Society (North America)

The 36th annual meeting of the Histochemical Society will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Crystal City, VA (Washington, DC area) on 3–5 May 1985.

Symposia will include: Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Generating Polarity in Epithelial and Neuronal Cells; In Situ Hybridisation with Nucleolide Probes—a Histochemical Tool; Advances in New Technology (Presidential Symposium) and Basement Membrane Function and Morphogenesis. Two workshops will be offered: Quantitative Electron Microscopy and Clinical Quantitative Hematology Cytochemistry. With the exception of selected papers related to symposia, all submitted papers will be presented in a poster session. Abstract forms are published in the November issue of the *Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry* Abstract deadline: January 15 1985. The Washington Area Electron Microscopy Society is sponsoring a symposium on Ultrastructural Enzyme Histochemistry, and combined participation in the two meetings is encouraged. For information contact: Dr Ronald R Cowden, Program Chairman, Department of Biophysics, Quillen-Dishner College of Medicine, Box 15130A, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee 37614, USA or Dr Constance Oliver, Secretary, Laboratory of Oral Biology/Physiology, Building 30, Room 21, National Institute of Dental Research, NIH, Bethesda, Maryland 20205.

### Clinical Hematology and Oncology: 1985

The Scripps Clinical and Research Foundation are sponsoring a meeting on "Clinical Hematology and Oncology" in February 1985 in San Diego, California. Further information may be obtained from: Dianne Tisue, Department of Academic Affairs, Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037.

## Some new titles

The receipt of 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.

**Tutorials in Surgery 5.** Surgical Pathology II. FG Smiddy and PN Cowen. (Pp 273; soft cover £14.50.) Pitman Publishing Ltd. 1984.

**Nutritional Assessment.** Ed RA Wright and S Heymsfield. (Pp 290; £29.50.) Blackwells. 1984.