Understanding Breast Cancer: Clinical and Laboratory Concepts. Ed MA Rich, JC Hager and P Furmanski. (Pp 395; no price given.) Marcel Dekker. 1984.

Breast cancer is the most important malignancy and a leading cause of death in women throughout the USA and Europe. More than any other malignant disease, research into breast cancer has provided an active interface between the varied expertise of pathologists and biochemists, molecular biologists, and clinicians. Continued investigation and the currently increased understanding of mammary cancer is a direct result of the interaction between the various interested disciplines.

This volume is the written account of the major presentations given at the International Association for Breast Cancer Research meeting at Denver, Colorado in March 1983. The objective of the meeting, and hence of this publication, was to bring together and to review critically the present status of all aspects of breast cancer investigation. This book is a complete résumé of the current status of the various aspects of breast cancer investigation and deals with the most recent clinical and laboratory advances. Some of the sections, for example those dealing with aspects of molecular biology, tissue culture, or the murine mammary tumour virus might appear somewhat *recherche* to many routine diagnostic histopathologists. Nevertheless such investigations are providing new and useful information. The chapters concerned with phenotypic heterogeneity are important since they emphasise the limitations of tumour-associated antigen identification and go some way to explain tumour resistance to chemotherapy. Although it is not designed as a standard text it does provide excellent and informed reading for the specialist investigator and for those with a mere passing interest in recent developments in breast cancer research.

CS FOSTER

Hematology: Principles and Procedures. 4th ed. Barbara A Brown. (Pp 405; \$29.25.) Lea & Febiger. 1984.

This is a methods book in haematology for technicians written by the supervisor of the Department of Hematology at Tufts New England Medical Center, Boston. It is in its fourth edition and has been reprinted

almost every year since its first appearance in 1973. It not only sets out how to do a procedure in very clear detail, but gives the rationale of the test, values in health and disease, and follows up the method with a discussion as to the circumstances under which the tests may be required, its accuracy, problems, and so on. As an example the section on eosinophil count discusses merits of eosinophil values taken from a differential as contrasted with a direct count, normal values, when low and high counts may be encountered and a general statement on methods. The types of diluting fluid are described and the three types of counting chambers are each described in detail and two are illustrated. The specimen required for the test is indicated and the broad principles involved are set out. Then follows a very careful and precise account of the technical procedures, the calculation of the result, how to check against a differential count, and finally a sound discussion. When appropriate a relevant reference to the literature is given. A criticism is that some outdated methods are included. As an example the bulb type blood diluting pipette has long been abandoned in many centres as it is difficult to calibrate with accuracy but its use is still recommended. A surprising omission is a method for HbA2 estimation. Blood transfusion serology is not dealt with. The field of haematology including diseases and automation are covered in 405 pages. A technician using this book conscientiously in his or her first years at the bench would be a very well informed technician. It clearly deserves the success it has achieved and is recommended but perhaps needs some updating.

I CHANARIN

Atlas of Orthopaedic Pathology with Clinical and Radiologic Correlations. Peter G Bullough and Vincent J Vigorita. (14 chapters; £49.50.) The Butterworth Group. 1984.

The Atlas of Orthopaedic Pathology is a collection of high quality photographs of gross specimens, microscopic preparations, and the corresponding radiographs. These are buttressed by a very lucid text and this saves it from being a mere "coffee table" book as so many atlases are. It is relatively expensive but this is a reflection of the quality of production. This book is highly recommended for departmental libraries.

G SLAVIN

Notices

Postgraduate Course on Lung Pathology

A four day intensive course covering the whole of lung pathology and designed to meet the needs of trainees and consultants in both pathology and other disciplines will be held on 4-7 February 1985 at the Cardiothoracic Institute, Brompton Hospital, London. There will be a common core of lectures but pathologists and non-pathologists will divide for the laboratory sessions. In these the pathologists will be able to study selected problem cases at the microscope, while the non-pathologists will have more straightforward cases demonstrated from a microscope fitted with a television camera. Lecturers include: Dr B Addis, Dr G Canti, Professor B Corrin, Dr P da Costa, Dr WR Geddie, Professor B Heard, Dr PK Jeffery, Dr E Olsen, and Professor H Spencer.

The course fee is £185, which includes coffee, lunch, and tea.

Application forms may be obtained from: The Dean's Office, Cardiothoracic Institute, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, SW3 6HP. Tel 01-352-8121 (ext 4187).

Postgraduate Course in Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology

The Departments of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School will present a postgraduate course in Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology under the direction of Drs Robert E Scully, Robert H Young, and Shirley G Driscoll on 22-26 April 1985.

The course is designed for pathologists and obstetrician-gynaecologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide an in depth review of gynaecological and obstetric pathology with emphasis on morphological diagnostic features and clinicopathological correlation, including management. Special attention will be paid to recent advances and newly recognised entities. Instruction will be primarily by lecture, but will also include case presentations and discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The fee for the course is \$475.00. For further information contact: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115 (Tel. 617-732-1526).