Book reviews

described in the 28 chapters of this volume and it will be found in use to be a reliable guide.

Unquestionably the two volumes of the 7th edition here reviewed are well up to the standards set by their predecessors, and may stand up even better to highly specialised scrutiny. *Topley and Wilson* remains a necessity and one of the good things of life.

JW HOWIE

Clinical Enzymology. Methods in Laboratory Medicine. Vol 3. G Kaldor. (Pp 223; \$35.00.) Praeger. 1983.

This is an attractively produced book which covers all the important aspects of clinical enzymology. The first part of the volume gives a brief and lucid account of enzyme action and the general principles of enzyme assays together with a simple treatment of enzyme kinetics. The rationale for enzyme determinations in the blood are also considered. The remaining chapters discuss individual enzymes, each being introduced by a short methodological section with subsequent fuller consideration of the clinical significance of their determination. Though this volume does not provide an in depth treatment of these enzymes, the material presented is adequate for comprehensive understanding of their clinical role and the writing is clear. It is unfortunate that there are numerous minor textual errors and that the names of so many enzymologists who have contributed to diagnostic enzymology and who are listed in the comprehensive reference section should have been misspelt.

Overall, it is a work that can be recommended for those who require a simple, brief introduction to the subject, and who are involved in the clinical interpretation of enzyme test values.

SB ROSALKI

Transmural Plasma Flow in Atherogenesis. H Jellinek, Z Detre and B Veress. (Pp 190; £13.80.) Akademiai Kiado. 1983.

The title indicates the major interests of the authors, namely that the fundamental lesion in atherosclerosis is disturbance of a physiologically significant process—the transmural transport of blood components. This is a view that would have pleased

Wilens who, in 1951, had treated the aortic wall experimentally as a selective sieve as well as a conducting tube.

There is a good brief description of vascular components; hypertension and associated chemical mediators are treated in detail. Beautiful coloured photomicrographs illustrate the effect of hypoxia on the passage of colloidal iron marker from endothelium to adventitia, and there are several illuminating electronmicrographs. Of particular interest is the stress laid on the production of gaps between endothelial cells followed by subendothelial "oedema". A new permeability tracer is described "Lipofundin -S".

This is a researcher's volume, the product of lively, inquiring generous minds; one's own mind often reels at the flow of ideas, perhaps not always immediately helpful to the reader, but invariably stimulating.

CI LEVINE

Liver in Metabolic Diseases. Falk Symposium 35. Ed L Bianchi, W Gerok, L Landmann, K Sickinger and GA Stalder. (Pp 447; £39.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1983.

The Falk Foundation sponsors excellent meetings on liver disease and related topics; this volume records the contributions to a Basel symposium of October 1982. The book is well produced, although failure to unify terminology between chapters, especially in the figures, is sometimes confusing—and what about "The audience then contributed thoughtful comments and penetrating questions until the moderator was reluctantly forced to terminate the session"!

The 40 or so chapters are up to date and generally of high quality. They cover hepatic metabolism of lipids, amino acids, proteins, carbohydrates, haem compounds, and certain metals and vitamins in health and disease, with sections on some related metabolic disorders: the volume title is inaccurate. The value of much full symposium publication can be questioned, and most of these contents can be found in standard textbooks or are already otherwise published. However, this book will be of use and interest to most chemical pathologists, and to other pathologists with an academic or service bias towards hepatology.

DN BARON

Problems of Antiviral Theory. Ed Sir Charles H Stuart-Harris and John Oxford. (Pp 347; £17.) Academic Press. 1983.

This excellent book is the report of a Beecham Colloquium which was held in September 1982. Despite its fairly long gestation period, it is packed with information and presents a nicely balanced mixture of clinical and molecular aspects of antiviral therapy. The writing is clear and even—a tribute no doubt to the editors, Sir Charles Stuart-Harris and Dr John Oxford. The editors are also to be congratulated on the transcripts of the discussions which followed the formal presentations. The contributors include most of the British experts on the subjects together with some of the leading American and European workers. Sir Charles' introduction includes an "apology for the slow progress" and, unfortunately, even now in early 1984, the practical uses of antiviral therapy are still very limited. Nevertheless, there is real hope for the future. Among the most notable contributions is HP Lambert's essay on target diseases in which he sets out the possible strategies for controlling virus infections.

The average medical reader may find AG Porter's chapter on gene cloning and the molecular biology of interferon somewhat too biochemical but it is nevertheless a scholarly review of a currently exciting topic. This chapter is nicely complemented by GM Scott's following article on the clinical uses of interferon. Although most current and prospective antiviral drugs are discussed, one surprising omission is ribivirin, which is scarcely mentioned. However, despite this minor criticism I found this an enjoyable and useful book which clinical virologists—and possibly also infectious diseases clinicians—will certainly want to have on their book shelves.

MORAG C TIMBURY

Atlas of Gastrointestinal Pathology as seen on Biopsy. Current Histopathology. Vol 6. IMP Dawson. (Pp 158; £34.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1983.

In this book the author's expressed aim is to illustrate common problems in gastrointestinal pathology so that it may act as a bench reference for the reporting pathologist. A total of 370 illustrations are presented, mostly photomicrographs, and nearly all in colour. Many are excellent but

some have poor colour reproduction and others are at too low a power of magnification. Several would have benefited from the use of indicator arrows.

However, this book is more than an atlas. The text is a well-written, concise, practical account of biopsy pathology based upon the author's own extensive experiences, and it is worth buying for this, especially by trainees with the hurdle of the MRCPath in front of them.

Overall, this book is a very good read. If the printers had done a better job of colour reproduction, it would be excellent value at the price.

G LEE

Tumours of the Trachea, Bronchus, Lung and Pleura. Diagnostic Tumour Bibliographies. Vol 1. WF Whimster. (Pp 167; £20.) Pitman Books Limited. 1983.

Advances in the treatment of respiratory tumours are crucially dependent upon high standards of diagnostic accuracy at that histological level. Not all pathologists faced with this challenge are specialists, and may require more information than that provided by the average textbook of surgical pathology. Recourse to the not insubstantial literature is, however, a time-consuming exercise. This book sets out to solve or at least to circumvent this problem. In essence, it represents a critical review of the literature, from which have been selected those papers thought to be of particular value in the identification of all the recognised tumour types in the respiratory tract and pleura. Access to this important information is facilitated by the provision of well judged introductory vignettes of the individual tumours, supplemented by a useful glossary of alternative terms. The outcome of this endeavour is an interesting and surprisingly stimulating account of respiratory neoplasia. Whether or not it will prove to be successful in practice is obviously difficult to predict; the less experienced, for example, might feel that the occasional photomicrograph would be helpful in initiating the identification process. It is, nonetheless, warmly recommended to any pathologist who wishes to learn more about this important topic. It is also to be hoped that further publications in this series will match the same high standard.

FD LEE

A Guide to Laboratory Transfusion Practice. DS Smith. (Pp 124; softback £5.95.) Ashford Press. 1983.

This little guidebook provides a useful account of the major interests of modern blood transfusion practice. Being based upon the author's knowledge of the needs of candidates preparing for higher examinations, it is written in note form which should help teachers and pupils alike to identify good tutorial material for discussion and expansion. Due to lack of space, some sections lend themselves to more detailed explanation in the larger textbooks.

Lively discussions could easily be conducted using this guide as a basis for instruction of candidates who require a rapid overview to supplement formal lectures, tutorials, and practical exercises. The student will find much to argue and digest in these remarkably few, well composed pages of text.

R MITCHELL

Trauma and Regeneration. Special Symposium of the 9th International Congress of Neuropathology, 1982. Acta Neurochirurgica Supplementum 32. Ed J Hume Adams. (Pp 127; £5.20.) Springer. 1983.

Cerebral trauma is one of the most distressing features of mechanised societies and often a puzzle for the pathologist. This very readable book is a compendium of papers presented at the International Neuropathology Congress in 1982. In the first half of the book there are succinct up to date accounts of the clinical and pathological aspects of head injuries together with brief reviews of scarring and regeneration in the central nervous system. The second half of the book deals with individual and interesting aspects of trauma ranging from ponto-medullary avulsion to birth injuries of the spinal cord and the use of a computerised data retrieval system in the investigation of head injuries. This slim volume is an essential supplement to the library of all pathologists and clinicians who deal with head injuries. It does not replace standard textbooks on the subject but it does express new concepts of practical value on regeneration in the brain and on the mechanisms and complications of trauma to the central nervous system.

RO WELLER

Cytochemical Bioassays. Techniques and Clinical Applications. Basic and Clinical Endocrinology Vol 3. Ed J Chayen and Lucille Bitensky. (Pp 417; £39.50.) Butterworths. 1983.

A very comprehensive and up to date review of the field of cytochemical bioassays is given in this book, covering both the theoretical and practical aspects of these assays. There is also interesting information on the clinical application of these hormonal assays as well as background to the physiology and function of the different hormones and to the other available assays, with comparison between them and their cytochemical counterpart.

There are three "introductory" chapters which cover the whole discipline of cytochemical assays, the chapter by Loveridge on "The Techniques of Cytochemical Bioassays" giving much practical information and data. The rest of the book then consists of chapters each concerned with individual hormones and their assays. There is some variation as to the content and presentation of these chapters, but in most, authors have given a good description of the structure-function of the hormone and the development and validation of the cytochemical assays comparing its performance to other available assays. Parts of the book may only appeal to those readers who enjoy a very theoretical approach to a subject. However, there is plenty of very helpful, practical, and reasonably realistic information made available to someone who is hoping to perform the assay themselves, with some pointers to where the problems and difficulties may lie.

The cost of the book is such as probably to preclude its purchase by an individual, but it would be strongly recommended to be on the shelves of any department where cytochemical bioassays are being or are about to be performed.

LH REE

The Biology of Immunologic Disease. Ed Frank J Dixon and David W Fisher. (Pp 399; £22.50.) Blackwells. 1983.

This is a multi-author book with 43 contributors mainly from the USA with the exception of 2 authors from Switzerland. The list of contributing authors reads like Who's Who of immunology. The contributors have been selected not only for