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