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


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


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


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


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 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 REES


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
Book reviews

their eminence in their own specialty but for their ability to communicate complex subjects into a form which is eminently readable. The book is superbly illustrated and this contributes considerably to its value.

This book can be highly recommended to all those wishing to acquire a wider breadth of knowledge in the area of immunological disease. With so many authors and chapters all outstanding, it would be invidious to single out any particular chapters for review. Suffice it to say that one is led effortlessly through immunogenetics, gene products on various cell types which now serve as an aid in the analysis of lymphoid malignancies. The various sub-sets of lymphocytes are described plus interaction with macrophages. Various authors discuss the mediators of hypersensitivity, and other soluble factors such as complement and C reactive protein.

This goes beyond being one more textbook on mechanisms in immunology; it deals with the application of this new knowledge to diagnosis and in particular monoclonal antibodies are discussed and their application to both diagnosis and treatment of disease.

It is a rare pleasure to review a book of such quality and wide appeal.

DA WILLOUGHBY


This book is a compilation of papers presented at the first international conference on human tumour markers held in Munich last year. The first two sentences are perhaps the most important. These state that “current tumour markers are neither highly sensitive nor tumour-specific. No ideal tumour marker has been found”. Following these opening remarks one can be forgiven for approaching the rest of the book with a certain scepticism and in some ways one is not disappointed. With the exception of well-known hormonal substances, there is no circulating tumour marker which is of outstanding use in diagnosis or follow-up of tumours, and correspondingly no immunohistochemical marker either. Nevertheless, there is much of value in these papers which together summarise everything that is currently known about the subject. From this base line more useful markers must inevitably emerge and pathologists engaged in research on this topical subject will find much that is useful in this book, particularly with regard to techniques and avenues for future investigation.

PG ISAACSON


With ageing populations, most western countries are bound to experience an increase in the incidence of prostatic carcinoma. In the USA it is already the second most common malignant tumour in males, and the relatively advanced age of those affected creates therapeutic problems about which there is understandable controversy. The publication in the Clinics in Oncology series is therefore both timely and relevant. It is not inappropriate that most of the constituent papers are devoted to the various aspects of treatment, including surgery and radiotherapy, and there are detailed accounts of developing trends in hormone therapy and chemotherapy which are likely to become increasingly employed in the future. While only one chapter is devoted exclusively to pathology, this contains useful updated diagnostic information and the illustrations are of a good standard. Pathologists will also welcome the interesting chapter on epidemiology and aetiology, as well as the review of clinical diagnostic techniques in current use. This publication is highly recommended to both clinicians and laboratory workers who seek to improve their capacity to deal with the many varied problems presented by this important disease.

FD LEE


The stated purpose of this volume is to offer guidance to the clinician. This it does in a reasonable and well organised fashion and it would be churlish to complain there is little new or surprising for the microbiologist. The importance of thorough clinical observations to the worthwhile practice of clinical microbiology is stressed throughout. The clinical reader will, one hopes, take away the important knowledge that a good clinical diagnosis as to the likely site of infection combined with expert examination of a small number of well collected specimens of relevant material will not only provide a specific diagnosis but define the antibiotic therapy indicated. The importance of purely local knowledge of antibiotic susceptibility patterns is emphasised. The recommendations on antibiotic treatment for severe infections pending laboratory investigations are straightforward and suggest well-trying and relatively inexpensive agents. It is stressed that totally “blind” treatment is very rarely indicated and there is a welcome out to over-incline the latest “Cephamagics” and “Wondercillins.” For a quick reference a summary table or tables indicating antibiotics, dosages, and uses might have been helpful.

The price of this book of less than two hundred pages at £19 might deter the widest readership.

RC GEORGE


The concept of “pre-cancer” is still a fuzzy one, and the reporting of premalignant lesions is a field where the diagnostic pathologist must tread warily, choosing his words with care. For the clinician, the dilemma in dealing with precancerous lesions is that a conservative approach may be ineffective, yet effective treatment may be needlessly dramatic. Both pathologist and oncologist will find much instruction in this multi-author survey of premalignant states. After chapters on epidemiology (Alderson), and genetics (Harnden), there are eleven chapters on precancerous states at various sites. Such names as Weinbren (liver), Mostofi (prostate), and Spriggs (cervix) guarantee an authoritative presentation. A final chapter on clinical implications (Calman) ends with the hope that “with clearer recognition of precancerous states, cancer therapy can . . . become less destructive and more efficacious”. This informative book should help to achieve this aim. Perhaps a second edition could