

**Microbiology in Blood Transfusion.** John AJ Barbara. Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences Monographs. (Pp 211; soft-back £7.50.) John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1983.

This is a delightful addition to the Medical Laboratory Sciences Monograph Series. It is concise with a rapid style which makes easy reading. It has been expertly printed and the author (and his wife!) have to be congratulated on a work in which I could find no typing or printing errors. The information is given quickly and expertly and the reader rapidly acquires the obvious enthusiasm for detailed and informed opinions. This book will be a considerable value for those in training for Higher Examinations and for those charged with organising and operating modern blood transfusion laboratories.

RUTHVEN MITCHELL

**Pathology Annual.** Part 2, Vol 18. 1983. Series eds Sheldon C Sommers and Paul Peter Rosen. (Pp 355; £40.40.) Prentice/Hall International. 1983.

This is another worthy addition to the well known series. It contains fourteen contributions of which nine originate from the USA, two from Canada, and one each from France, Japan, and the United Kingdom (in strict alphabetical order!). The overall choice of topics is well balanced with something of interest to most general histopathologists. I welcome the inclusion of the short historical overview of Anton Ghon, and the less than common chapters on forensic pathology and the autopsy. It should be a particularly attractive volume for pathologists interested in the respiratory system, with no less than three chapters from which to choose (two of them, *The Relation of Asbestos Burden to Asbestosis and Lung Cancer and Small Airways Disease*, and *Mineral Dust Exposure* cover closely related topics). Inevitably the contributions vary in their style and clarity but most are adequate apart from the occasional lapse—(what does "... although there are frequently unusual atypias of the bronchial epithelium" mean?), on page 329.

The reviews of the pancreatic islet tumours (K Mukai), Neoplasms in Infants (H Isaacs), Human Papilloma Virus Venereal Infections and Gynaecological Cancer (Meisels et al), and IgA Nephropathy (Stachura), are particularly helpful and comprehensive. Nezelof's chapter dealing with the histiocytoses gives an

updated account of this complex subject but I sorely missed an allusion to the condition of malignant histiocytosis of the intestine particularly since other much less common entities are described and referred to in the bibliography.

In most instances the illustrations are helpful and of good quality but some of the macrophotographs (chapters on breast carcinoma and examination of resected lungs) are unclear.

The references are well selected and up to date in most contributions but some quote an unnecessarily large number of pre-1975 papers, many of which are case reports. Confusingly, in four chapters they are listed in alphabetical order and in the more conventional Vancouver style in the rest.

At £40 (for only half of the annual output from the series) most pathologists will hope to see a copy of this book from their departmental library and will enjoy and benefit from the experience.

J PIRIS

**Microanalysis and Quantification.** Methods and Achievements in Experimental Pathology. Vol 11. Ed G Jasmin and L Proschek. (Pp 190; Sw fr 164.) Karger. 1984.

The latest volume in the series contains seven papers which cover many aspects of the analysis and quantitation of images produced by light and electron microscopy and the use of flow cytometry for cytological material. It is therefore a guide to a newly developing field in diagnostic pathology.

The methods described range from the cheap, manual point counting methods using optical grids to complex but increasingly available computer based systems.

Many of the general problems which may be encountered when trying to detect cellular images and their subsequent separation into different groups by measurements of shape and texture are discussed in detail. Specific papers on the analysis of skeletal muscle and the characterisation of abnormal nasal epithelium are included. All the papers are well referenced, including older basic articles and more recent publications up to 1982.

Anyone with an interest in the quantitation of biological images which is either latent, developing, or well established will find something of interest in this book. It is a useful addition to the departmental library.

C SOWTER

## Correction

An error occurred in the letter by Dyas *et al*<sup>1</sup> in the July issue. The first sentence of the seventh paragraph should read: *vaginalis* was isolated from 15 and anaerobes from 10 of the general practice patients."

<sup>1</sup> Dyas A, Garratt D, Dixon J, Bodley Robertson MJ. Isolation of *Gardnerella vaginalis* from women attending gynaecological clinics and general practice surgeries. *J Clin Pathol* 1984;37:839.

## Notice

### Symposium on analytical methods in forensic chemistry and toxicology

This symposium is sponsored by the American Chemical Society Division of Analytical Chemistry and will be held in conjunction with the 189th ACS National Meeting in Miami, Florida (28 April-3 May, 1985). The scientific programme will comprise invited lectures and contributed papers dealing with the state of the art of analytical methodology in forensic chemistry and toxicology.

Abstracts for presentation are invited. Papers submitted for consideration may be reviews or original research papers and should be sent to Dr MH Ho, Department of Chemistry, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama 35294 by 30 November 1985. Publication of the proceedings as a hard cover book in the ACS Symposium Series is planned.

## 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.

**Clinical Diagnosis and Management of Laboratory Methods.** 17 ed. JB Henry. (Pp 1502; £49.50.) WB Saunders. 1984.

**Industrial Hazards of Plastics and Synthetic Elastomers.** Progress in Clinical and Biological Research Vol 141. Ed J Jervisalo, P Pfäffi and H Vainio. (Pp 460; £52.) Alan R Liss. 1984.

**The Retinoids.** Vols 1 and 2. Ed MB Sporn, AB Roberts, and DS Goodman. (Vol 1; Pp 424; \$46.) (Vol 2; Pp 464; \$41.) Academic Press Inc. 1984.