

ing complex three dimensional congenital disorders in a two dimensional image. The accompanying text is lucid, short, and to the point.

6 *Urinary System* (consultant editor, Dr C Pugh, London.) This volume comprises 129 slides from kidney, ureter, bladder, urethra and urinary calculi. There is a strong surgical slant, with few illustrations of medical conditions such as glomerulonephritis, yet including 20 slides of calculi. The surgical pathology of the system, however, is well covered and the slides are of very high quality. As in the other sections the accompanying text is helpful.

7 *Reproductive System* (consultant editors, Professor H Fox, Manchester, Drs R Pugh and P McKee, London). The quality of the transparencies in this section is excellent throughout, and the conditions they illustrate cover the full range of common diseases in the male and female reproductive system. The accompanying legends are informative and strike a good balance between clinical history, pathology, and general features of the disease.

8 *Endocrine System* (consultant editor, Professor SC Sommers, New York); *Lymphoreticular System* (consultant editor, Professor J Pettit, Otago); *Haemopoietic System* (consultant editor, Professor J Pettit, Otago); *Skin* (consultant editor, Dr P McKee, London); *Soft Tissues* (consultant editor, Dr P McKee, London). This diverse volume is generally well selected, though occasionally repetitious—four photographs of red marrow extension. The scale of the photographs is something of a problem, and comparison of spleen size in ALL (26) and CML (29) is impossible. The text as in the other sections is short and informative—just the right balance.

Overall this is a splendid collection of teaching material for undergraduate and postgraduate alike. If purchased as a whole it will make the basis of a very fine teaching collection in those laboratories lacking such a basic teaching aid. Every picture is not a winner but enough are to make this Atlas a resounding success and a credit to the publishers and College alike.

The cost is high (£1100 for the complete set, £180 each volume, except the *Alimentary System* at £340) and at first sight prohibitive. Reflection, however, shows that to organise this amount of photographing in terms of effort and time would be impossible for most of us, and the Atlas is a good buy for any teaching laboratory and is value for money. How to get the money? Well, these days with pathologists controlling budgets, virement of one months salary of a registrar would

substantially pay for the Atlas. Introduce a little planned "slippage" into your recruiting programme; the permanent value of the slide collection to your laboratory will outweigh the temporary staffing difficulty. Nonetheless, some pathologists will find it difficult to raise the price; they can buy individual systems as listed, but a solution the publishers should consider is to prepare a shorter "core" Atlas with the editors choosing, say, 250 slides from all systems.

G SLAVIN

Laboratory Immunology and Serology. 2nd ed. NJ Bryant. (Pp 216; £19.50.) WB Saunders. 1986. ISBN 0-7216-1059-5.

This is a book specifically designed for students of medical technology. It is an introduction to the subject. Each of the chapters covers single topics such as complement or viral hepatitis using a standard format and a list of objectives. The main text is divided simply into clearly labelled paragraphs, with a section on laboratory methods and finally some multiple choice review questions. Parts of the book are a little dated, but it is not intended as a "state of the art" summary and it gives the safe answer for the uninitiated novice instead of the most recent research views, whose ever changing nature could upset the tiros.

There are some nice line drawings outlining basic immunological concepts. A short book cannot include everything: it concentrates of serological immunology and omits describing tests for immune complexes, monoclonal gammopathies, and many autoantibodies. On the other hand, it gives detailed descriptions of the serology of syphilis. If you need to learn quickly some basic immunochemistry or serology this is a very suitable and relatively slim volume to read.

DL SCOTT

Macrophage Biology. Progress in Leukocyte Biology. Vol 4. Ed S Reichard, M Kojima. (Pp 992; \$120.) Alan R Liss. 1986. ISBN 0-8451-4103-1.

This massive volume records the proceedings of the tenth International Congress of the IURES held in Ito, Japan, September 2-7, 1984 which was a world gathering of masters of the macrophage. The table of contents reading like a role of honour. This collection of research papers is of great

value to research workers in the many fields covered, ranging from oncology, systemic lupus erythematosus, influenza, function of the cells, and several papers on the origin of these ubiquitous cells. There seems to be no end to the host of biologically active mediators produced by the macrophages, and it is no wonder so many disciplines are attracted to them.

The editors have successfully achieved an enormous task within a short space of time; furthermore, the book seems quite cheap for such a compendium of data, with the added advantage that when it is out of date its weight will make it a formidable door stop.

DA WILLOUGHBY

The Autoimmune Diseases. Ed NR Rose, IR Mackay. (Pp 727; £75.) Academic Press Inc. 1985. ISBN 0-12-596920.

This 700 page book is edited by two distinguished medical scientists who have spent a life time of research into clinical immunology, and autoimmune disease in particular. It brings together a wealth of distinguished contributors to cover the whole spectrum of diseases known, or thought, to be caused by autoimmune mechanisms.

It begins by distinguishing between autoimmunity and autoimmune disease. In the former antibodies or immune sensitised cells react with self antigens; this may be a normal physiological process (e.g. anti-idiotypic antibodies, immunoglobulins, etc). In the latter this process produces pathological change, and it is these situations with which the book is concerned.

Inevitably the first chapters are on the nature of the abnormal autoimmune reaction and its genetic basis, as there are many clear associations between certain genetic markers and autoimmune diseases. It eschews the rigid classification of organ specific and non-organ specific diseases and instead emphasises the overlap between these categories.

Each condition is well covered, and although there are some idiosyncratic chapters, many follow what is clearly a common style and format, with short headed sections that are generally well written and easy to read. This is just as well as there is a dearth of tables and figures in many chapters, which make the volume more didactic in approach than it need be.

Unfortunately, not all chapters cover the therapeutic implications of the new under-

standing which they convey, and this is a pity at a time when clinical immunologists are struggling to emphasise the growing importance of their subject in clinical practice. A penultimate chapter by Roger Dawkins on quality control in autoantibody testing is a reminder that this subject now also forms a specialised aspect of laboratory medicine, with many pitfalls for the unwary. On the whole, this book is thoroughly recommended for students, practising clinicians, and laboratory workers as a well balanced up to date review of the subject.

At £75, it is perhaps too expensive an investment for an individual, but it is a must for a department's or institution's library.

RA THOMPSON

Skeletal Muscle. Handbook of Microscopic Anatomy. Vol 2. Part 6. Ed H Schmalbruch. (Pp 440; 129 figs; DM 580.) Springer. 1985. ISBN 3-540-15608-9.

This impressive book covers the micro-anatomy of muscle of man and other species. The structure is described and illustrated with high quality photomicrographs, electromicrographs, and illustrations. The general emphasis is on the possible links between adaptations in structure and those in metabolism or physiological functions. The latter part of the book is an authoritative account of development, regeneration, and growth of muscle. It concludes with a section on muscle fibres as members of motor units and the influence of control by the nervous system. Muscle pathology does not feature in this book, though clearly, the general mechanisms of cell degeneration and subsequent regeneration are well described. This book is extensively referenced with some 2500 references. It is a book that seems to be reasonably priced and one which would be a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in muscle anatomy, physiology, or pathology.

RHT EDWARDS

Leukemia Therapy. Ed RP Gale. (Pp 277; £39.50.) Blackwells. 1986. ISBN 0-86542-024-6.

With the aim of providing a review of leukaemia treatment by "balanced analyses rather than emphasising individual studies"

a cohort of Californian authors has assembled 250 pages of easily digestible text into 11 chapters. Generally, the book succeeds; it is well referenced and as up to date as can be expected. The views expressed are mainstream, and there is remarkably little evidence of hobby-horse riding.

The contents include three general reviews of chemotherapy, infections, and blood products, and the remaining chapters are devoted to the treatment of the childhood lymphoblastic, adult lymphoblastic, myeloblastic, chronic granulocytic, chronic lymphocytic, hairy cell and plasma cell varieties of leukaemia. There is also a section on the various myelodysplastic syndromes, which the authors still prefer to call "pre-leukaemia".

Who should buy it? Certainly all the libraries of specialist departments, post-graduate centres, and medical schools; but one suspects few individuals will be prepared to pay £40, which is a pity. If the publishers had produced it for half the price, they may have more than doubled the potential sales.

JS LILLEYMAN

Clarke's Isolation and Identification of Drugs. 2nd ed. AC Moffat. (Pp 1248; £88.) The Pharmaceutical Press. 1986.

The first edition, published in 1969, was a compendium of analytical methods together with a series of monographs on 1000 drugs and related compounds. A supplement, published in 1975, reviewed the chemical and physical properties, metabolism, and toxicity of a further 250 substances. This second edition is a handsomely produced volume, which covers and updates most of the material in the first edition and adds a great deal of valuable information on new techniques and new drugs. There are 23 contributors to the analytical techniques section (300 pages); the editorial staff of the Pharmaceutical Society must have devoted a lot of effort to preparing the monographs on individual drugs (750 pages) and the various indexes (100 pages). They, and the consulting editors, have made a notable British contribution to the literature on analytical toxicology. This book is a must for any pathologist who is faced with the problem of identifying, and perhaps quantitating, an unknown drug in a pharmaceutical product, a specimen from a living patient, or post mortem material.

SS BROWN

Notices

British Society of Dermatopathology

Friday 27 February 1987

at

The Nevin Lecture Theatre,
St. Thomas's Hospital,
London

The Role of Dermatopathology in the Diagnosis of Internal Disease:

Topics will include: cutaneous manifestations of paraprotein production; mechanisms in vasculitis; histiocytic syndromes (Professor R Caputo, University of Milan); tuberculosis and the tuberculides; metabolically active tumours.

Further information from: Dr PH McKee, Department of Histopathology, St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH.

On April 4 1986 The Lupus Research Laboratory, sponsored an international workshop to standardise the anti-cardiolipin (aCL) test. Our laboratory has now prepared five antisera for distribution to laboratories wishing to standardise this test. In addition, a protocol has been established to evaluate the validity and reproducibility of the assay methods used by participating laboratories.

These reference sera and instructions for participation in the aCL standardisation process can be obtained by writing to:

Mrs Jill Harris,
Lupus Research Laboratory,
Rayne Institute,
St Thomas's Hospital,
London SE1 7EH

There will be a charge of £50.00 (sterling) to cover the cost of sample preparation, postage, and computer analysis of each laboratory's results.