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.