products of special interest like amyloid have also been given their own short chapters. The expansion of introductory descriptions and theoretical basis of laboratory technique is particularly welcome. Staining methods can be quickly identified by their grey background but this does not improve readability of the general text as technical details of the preparation of stains and working solutions are printed in the same way as the general descriptive text. Immunoenzyme techniques are described in six and a half pages and will need expansion in the future. These revisions and additions have made the approach, format, content, and price more like those of its two main competitors, but devotees of Culling, as well as new readers, can expect to be well satisfied.

RAB DRURY

Nucleic Acid Hybridisation. A Practical Approach. Ed BD Hames, SJ Higgins. (Pp 256; soft cover £14; hard cover £22.) IRL Press Ltd. 1985. ISBN 0 947946 23 3 (softbound); 0 947946 61 6 (hardbound).

Molecular pathology is now a discipline in its own right; it includes, as a central part of its technical repertoire, the use of gene probes to determine the nature and effect of gene mutations. This paperback volume is the latest of the "Practical Approach" series from IRL Press and like all of them, is up to date, detailed, well produced and inexpensive. It is, however, not for beginners—they would do better to start with a general primer in recombinant DNA technology (such as Watson *et al*, "Recombinant DNA—A Short Course"). Even in the laboratory the "Maniatis Handbook" is a better general guide, though now out of date. The real virtues of this volume are the theoretical background given in each section and the detailed recipes for making and labelling probes for carrying out in situ hybridisation, for quantitative hybridisation both to DNA and RNA, and for visualising nucleic acid hybrids using the electron microscope. At £14 it is cheap enough for any laboratory carrying out gene analysis (and surely this should now include most pathology laboratories in major centres). But with molecular biology moving so rapidly, it will also be necessary to replace it in two or three years' time, when the techniques all have changed yet again.

R WILLIAMSON

Membranes and Muscle. Ed MC Berman, W Gevers, LH Opie. (Pp 392; paperback £27.) IRL Press. 1985.

This is the proceedings, including abstracts of posters, of a symposium organised by the South African Medical Research Council and recognised by the International Union of Biochemistry as an IUB symposium. Clearly, Ca^{2+} was a major theme of the meeting with a valuable introductory chapter by Carafoli. The importance of plasma lemma and sarcoplasmic reticulum in Ca^{2+} homeostasis is fully covered with interesting sections on drugs affecting Ca^{2+} binding, Ca^{2+} ATP activities, and Ca^{2+} channels. Regulation of metabolism is confined to synthesis of glycogen, the role of mitochondrial creatine kinase, and carnitine function. Discussion of mitochondrial function is limited to a chapter by Packer, who links this organelle to free radicals and exercise tolerance. Myocardial disease is largely confined to ischaemic damage with little mention of metabolic cardiomyopathies.

This is a book of particular, but probably ephemeral, interests to workers in the fields of cardiac physiology and biochemistry and clearly represents a useful contribution. The editors are to be particularly congratulated on publishing the proceedings within six months of the meeting.

TJ PETERS

Notices

University of Wales College of Medicine

Honorary Professorship for Dr William Jones Williams

On the recommendation of the University of Wales College of Medicine the University of Wales has conferred an Honorary Professorship on Dr William Jones Williams. Professor Jones Williams, although not a member of staff of the College, will have the rank and status of Professor for an initial period of five years from 1 January 1986. He will play a full part in the teaching and research programmes of the College's department of pathology, while continuing his clinical activities at Llandough Hospital, where he has been a consultant pathologist since 1977.

The title "Honorary Professor" is a rare distinction occasionally conferred on outstanding scholars external to the University of Wales. Professor Jones Williams's appointment is only the second such to be made at the University of Wales College of Medicine.

Professor Jones Williams, 61 years old, trained at the Middlesex Hospital. He has spent the greater part of a distinguished career in Cardiff, seventeen years of which were spent on the staff of the Welsh National School of Medicine (now the University of Wales College of Medicine). Respected internationally for the major contributions he has made to the pathology of sarcoidosis and other granulomatous diseases, he has been a visiting lecturer worldwide, and has over 130 scientific publications to his credit, including some in his native Welsh.

He is currently President of the Association of Clinical Pathologists of Great Britain and Ireland, and also represents the College on the University of Wales Press Board and the Committee on Welsh Medium Teaching.

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr David Melcher, Histopathology Department, Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE.