Book reviews

Colour Atlas of Cardiovascular Pathology. MJ Davies. (Pp 180; 417 colour illustrations; £60.) Oxford University Press. 1986. ISBN 0 19 921047 0.

This excellent presentation of cardiac colour photographs is aimed at cardiologists and cardiac surgeons as well as histopathologists. The content is well balanced, specimens are well chosen and displayed, and angiograms, line drawings, and echocardiographic views are included where appropriate.

The chapters follow the conventional pattern, starting with normal structure and dissection of the heart and ending with cardiac surgery and appendices on examination of the conduction system, and methods of demonstrating myocardial infarction and cardiac hypertrophy at necropsy. The contents include dissection methods designed to relate the pathological specimen to results of modern imaging techniques and many of the photographs are of hearts displayed in this way.

This book met with unqualified approval from our cardiologists and pathology trainees. Its price is likely to deter private collectors but it should certainly be in the library of any pathology department which works with an active cardiac unit, is involved with coroner's necropsies, or undertakes postgraduate training.

ARIELA POMERANCE

Breast Cancer. Treatment and Prognosis. Ed Basil A Stoll. (Pp 337; £39.50.) Blackwells. 1986. ISBN 0-632-01485-7.

This book is a compilation of contributions from distinguished workers all over the world. It is aimed more at clinicians than histopathologists but nevertheless there is plenty to interest anyone working in the field of breast cancer.

The book is divided into three sections. The first addresses the impact of current treatment, the second points to prognosis, and the third relates to prospects for new approaches. It is the second section which will probably appeal most to the pathologist, with particularly helpful chapters on components of a prognostic index, and histopathology cytometry in prognosis. Part three contains much useful information

about tumour biology in general, as well as specifically relating to breast carcinoma.

Unfortunately, the relatively high cost of the book makes it unlikely that the pathologist will want to buy a personal or department copy but many of the chapters are certainly worth reading in the library copy.

NICOLA J BARNARD

Liver Pathology. Vol 8. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Ed RL Peters, JR Craig. (Pp 360; £52.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1986. ISBN 443-084-025.

This is Volume 8 of the series *Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology* and is a well illustrated, straightforward account of liver pathology which I enjoyed reading. The authors are mainly American but there are European and Japanese contributions; Professor MacSween from Glasgow is the sole British input with chapters on primary biliary cirrhosis and mechanical obstruction of the ducts. Despite the preponderance of American contributors the text is not parochial and the range of references is catholic. This book will be very suitable reading for those taking postgraduate examinations in pathology.

The senior author died suddenly before the book was completed and it is appropriate that his influence in the teaching and study of liver pathology should continue through this excellent volume.

G SLAVIN

Recent Advances in Histopathology. No 13. Ed PP Anthony, RNM MacSween. (Pp 287; £20.) Churchill Livingstone. 1987. ISBN 0 443 03488 5.

It is difficult to say anything about the 13th volume of *Recent Advances in Histopathology* which has not been said about previous volumes. Its format and size are unchanged. It contains 15 chapters on topics which the editors consider reflect advances of established value, and these are contributed by authorities in the field. All the chapters are succinctly and clearly written: the black and white photographs are well chosen and informative, and it is difficult to choose the best. The spectrum of the book is extremely wide, from oncogenes to legal matters, and as usual everyone will find something to interest them. This book has almost become compulsory reading for the Final MRCPath. examination, since it

almost certainly covers at least some of the written questions but it will certainly be widely read by more senior (and junior) histopathologists as well. Once again, the editors and contributors have achieved a high standard, and Number 13 is thoroughly recommended.

NICOLA J BARNARD

Cancer and the Heart. Ed AS Kapoor. (Pp 316; DM 195.) Springer. 1986. ISBN 3-540-96245-X.

This book to which 30 experts have contributed is a welcome addition to the medical literature. The title does not do justice to the content of this book as it also includes benign tumours and non-neoplastic diseases.

The compact volume is divided into four parts. The first deals with benign and malignant cardiac tumours including metastasis. The second refers to paraneoplastic diseases describing conditions such as carcinoid disease and pheochromocytoma. Cardiovascular abnormalities in cancer patients, for example anaemias, are discussed in the third part, and cancer and heart disease, including smoking and nutrition, are presented in the fourth part.

Recovery of endomyocardial tissue by biopsy, computed tomography, and pulsed Doppler echocardiography receive detailed attention. Medical and surgical management of cardiac tumours are fully described.

The text is eminently readable and amply provided with illustrations of the highest technical standard. Each chapter is comprehensively reviewed.

I can recommend this book unreservedly to everyone engaged in the study of the heart, and it should occupy a prominent place on everyone's shelf.

EGJ OLSEN

Principles and Practice of Clinical Virology. AJ Zuckerman, JE Banatvala, JR Pattison. £58. John Wiley. 1986. ISBN 0 47190341 1.

There has long been a need for a good comprehensive up to date book on clinical virology; two excellent books, edited by Evans in the United States and Fenner and White from Australia, are getting a little dated. The