Book reviews


Chromatography of lipids, mainly glycerolipids and glycolipids, is described clearly and concisely in this book. The chapters are well balanced with sections on methodology, applications, and in some instances on the metabolism of the lipids under consideration. Methodology is detailed with subsections on sample preparation, extraction, derivitisation, detection techniques for either qualitative or quantitative analysis, and conditions for optimum chromatographic separation whether it be TLC, GC, HPLC, GC-MS, or LC-MS. The figures and diagrams are clearly labelled and each chapter is well referenced for those who require more information on a specific topic.

This is an extremely useful reference book. It will appeal to those already involved in lipid analysis but it would be of immense value to researchers contemplating analysis of prostaglandins or lipids either as neutral lipid profiles or as glycerophospholipids.

D MITCHELL


This short monograph is written to accompany a set of 52 35mm transparencies. The slides are as would be expected a useful collection of common and not so common lesions. The text is too short to be useful but there is a good reading list. The cost is relatively expensive and I would find it hard to justify purchase on a tight laboratory budget. Instead I would direct the money towards buying a larger monograph such as the 1983 edition of Enzinger and Weiss on soft tissue tumours.

G SLAVIN


Two paradoxes in modern cancer chemotherapy betray its immaturity: the drugs are so toxic that their use may risk as much harm to the patient as to the tumour, and many are themselves carcinogenic under certain circumstances.

This book reviews experimental and clinical studies of the carcinogenicity of the alkylating agents, still the mainstay of chemotherapy for most types of tumour. The contents are inevitably patchy and suffer from being based on a conference held in 1985, as more recent studies on oncogenes and nucleotide alklylation could not be covered. It has useful reviews of the production of neoplasms in man and animals by treatment with several classes of drugs, and of the chemistry of interactions with DNA of diverse alkylating agents. There are also chapters on the measurement of alkylation and other techniques to detect DNA damage, as well as some trends in drug discovery.

Overall it is a helpful account of an under studied area which pathologists and therapists should always bear in mind.

AD DAYAN


This book is the published proceedings of a workshop held in 1986 when a group of international experts met to discuss some of the recent advances in the field. The content reflects areas of current research interest in both the biology and management of testicular tumours. The significance of "carcinoma-in-situ" (CIS) is discussed at some depth relation to diagnostic criteria, the development of both seminoma and non seminoma and the effects of various treatment modalities on CIS. With the exception of the increased importance of placental alkaline phosphatase and the role of intermediate filaments in differential diagnosis of testicular tumours, the use of monoclonal antibodies and oncogene probes appears to be currently limited, but the papers presented suggest that this is an area of future expansion. Other human systems such as the production of new cell lines with the capacity to differentiate are reviewed and this approach may open up new areas of investigation in relation to differentiation, but aetiology and pathogenesis of this group of tumours is still almost totally unknown. Treatment regimens and criteria for different modalities are particularly well covered. The discussions at the end of each session are useful as a more critical appraisal of the data presented. The book is of value to clinicians specialising in this area, and would be useful as a library reference text. Most of the data is, however, present in the specialist literature and at £35 the book will probably not find a large market amongst individual purchasers.

BA GUSTERSON


This short book published in October 1986 contains original papers and some reviews from a satellite symposium on the biopathology of vascular wall and glomerular dysfunction held in Japan in 1984, following the 3rd International Congress of cellular biology. It is concerned mainly with chemical and charge aspects of glomeruli and the microcirculation, the only paper based on human material being one on C3d localisation in glomerular disease. The authors are mainly Japanese and American, with a few Europeans. The only British contributor is Stephen Batsford but we cannot claim his work as British, for he has been in Fireberg for many years. Much filtrate has passed through the glomerular walls since these papers were given in 1984, so the book has lost some of its value. Specialists in this area will already have seen later articles by the same authors in the journals, while those reading for general interest would be better served by a collection of review articles.

DR DAVIES


This volume attempts to provide a unified approach to our understanding of those disorders "in which the presence of a paraprotein is considered to be a major diagnostic and aetiological factor". The authors of individual chapters include a number of acknowledged international experts.

The opening chapter on the structure and function of immunoglobulins is disappointing and constitutes a somewhat formidable first hurdle. It appears to assume