Chromatography of Lipids in Biomedical Research and Clinical Diagnosis. Journal of Chromatography Library. Vol 37. Ed A Kuksis. (Pp 460; \$97.75.) Elsevier. 1987. ISBN 0-444-42762-7.

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

Adipose Tissue Tumors. The American Society of Clinical Pathologists Classic Teaching Collections Soft Tissue Series 6. FM Enzinger, EH Soule, R Lattes. (Pp 33; \$75.00.) The Raven Press. 1987.

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

Carcinogenicity of Alkylating Cytostatic Drugs. D Schmahl and JM Kaldor. (IARC Scientific Publications No 78) (Pp 338; £25.) Oxford University Press. 1987. ISBN 92-832-1178-2.

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 alkylation 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

Carcinoma in situ and Cancer of the Testis. Biology and Treatment. Proceedings of a workshop held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 1986. Ed M Rorth, KM Grigor, G Daugaard, A Giwercman, NE Skakkebaek. (Pp 430; £35.) Blackwells. 1987. ISBN 0-632-01777-5.

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 in 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

Glomerular Dysfunction and Biopathology of Vascular Wall. Ed S Seno, AL Copley, MA Venkatachalam, Y Hamashima, T Tsujii. (Pp 241; £33.00.) Academic Press. 1986. ISBN 0-12-636775-2.

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 cell 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 Freiburg 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 already will 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

Multiple Myeloma and Paraprotein Disorders. Ed IW Delamore. (Pp 320; £60.) Churchill Livingstone. 1986. ISBN 443-003134-7.

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

detailed knowledge on the part of the reader and a number of new terms and expressions appear in the text without preliminary discussion or definition. Further confusion is provided by some of the complex figures which do not necessarily relate to the accompanying text.

Chapters on the cellular basis of antibody production by MacLennan, and on the pathogenesis of plasmacytomas in mice by Potter provide useful background information on immunoglobulin production and plasmacytoma development. These are followed by a well illustrated and informative chapter on the epidemiology of multiple myeloma by Cuzick. The chapter on the morphological aspects of the paraproteinaemias by Hayhoe and his Cambridge colleagues is both authorative and useful. It is particularly well written and most of the photomicrographs, which include colour reproductions and electron microscopy, are clearly presented. Surprisingly, the final chapter in this section which covers radiological investigations makes no mention of myelography.

The clinical and prognostic features of myeloma are covered in the second section in chapters written by Kelsey and Delamore. These are generally good but even crossword experts will have difficulty in unscrambling the acronym of POEMS syndrome, referred to on page 120. The hyperviscosity syndrome becomes progressively more confusing as one progresses through the book, since the authors of three different chapters have widely different views on its prevalence in myeloma. Finally, in this section is an interesting yet strangely placed chapter by Barlogie and Alexanian which discusses the biologic and clinical potential of flow cytometry.

The third section deals with the other paraprotein disorders. A high standard is maintained throughout with particularly good chapters on benign paraproteinaemia, macroglobulinaemia, and heavy chain disease by Kyle, Paladine, and Seligmann respectively.

The final section covers various complications of the paraproteinaemias and the general management and chemotherapy of myeloma. Here some improvement could have been achieved since certain aspects of patient management are dealt with somewhat sketchily and there is some confusing overlap between individual contributors.

Overall, this book is attractively presented, well illustrated, and contains a reasonably good bibliography. The one or two disappointing chapters are more than counterbalanced by others which are of a

very high standard. At £60 it is not particularly cheap but it would make a useful addition to a departmental library.

FE PRESTON

Angiogenesis. The Growth of the Vascular System. O Hudlicka, KR Tyler. (Pp 221; £25.) Academic Press. 1986. ISBN 0-12-360130-4.

Few pathologists study angiogenesis, as is true of other pathological mechanisms: histopathologists look at it daily but do not study it. Would this book stimulate someone to have a go at some aspect of the subject and would it supply an easy entry into the literature and methodology? Yes.

For those reading on, it should be explained that this is the first book that attempts to cover all aspects of a subject extending from classic morphological and physiological studies on vessel growth to the complexities of growth control in culture. Each chapter contains a scholarly review of the development of the area, an account of current work, and then, what is particularly welcome, a critical appraisal of what are the key questions and where developments might be expected.

A minor point of criticism is that the references do not contain the titles of articles or books. Why is the preface dated May, 1985 but the book only available for review in 1987? The sections on vessel growth in disease are less confident and complete in some areas such as inflammation and healing reflecting the authors' physiological bias. English style disintegrates somewhat in the preface and conclusions, but this is forgivable as it reflects an attempt to grapple with imponderables at the leading edge of the subject.

WD THOMPSON

Novel Diarrhoea Viruses. CIBA Foundation Symposium 128. (Pp 272; £28.95.) John Wiley & Sons. 1987. ISBN 0-471-91094-5.

For those who find the continuing exploration of the viruses associated with diarrhoea as tiresome as politics before an election, this book will not be entirely welcome. Nonetheless, it is clear that the story has much complexity still to be unravelled.

The title, however, could be somewhat misleading for anyone who has not been following developments so far. Some space is devoted to the existing favourites (rotaviruses and Norwalk), but the emphasis is to

look more widely at all the viruses to be found by electron microscopy and increasingly, by other techniques. These viruses which include adenoviruses, astroviruses, caliciviruses, small round viruses (including parvoviruses), toroviruses, and a variety of bacteriophage like particles, as well as those already mentioned, are all candidates for inducing diarrhoea. But which and when?

Ciba assembled their usual panel of experts in July 1986, and their formal presentations are obligatory reading for those concerned with any aspect of diarrhoea. What makes this book fascinating are the discussions which followed each paper. This is what a workshop should be. Here the uncertainties emerge, the doubts are expressed, and the speculations offered. Those collecting the series will buy this volume (and get their money's worth), and will libraries. Individuals could spend a useful half hour browsing through it; the consequent temptation to buy will be strong.

CR MADELEY

Nose, Throat and Ears. Systemic Pathology. 3rd ed. Vol 1. Ed I Friedmann (Pp 359; £50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1986. ISBN 0 444 03097 9.

This volume, the first of the third edition of *Systemic Pathology*, has been extensively revised and has contributions from Dr M Bennett and Dr J Piris, working with Professor Friedmann on the pathology of the nose and larynx, respectively. The ENT pathology previously spread through several volumes of the second edition has been collected into one volume, and expanded with new material and a large number of illustrations, the quality of which is for the most part excellent.

As in the previous editions, there are small irritations. The references are numerous but rather dated and there are few more recent than 1983. The style in which the references are set has not been changed – the titles of articles and their last page numbers have been omitted again. On the other hand, the subject matter is compendious and arranged so that diagnostic pathologists will find the book easy to consult. It fills an obvious need in most departments for a definitive textbook on this subject, and is certainly worth its price.

D LOWE