Mesothelioma. Diagnosis and Management. CF Kittle. (Pp 106; £34.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-8151-5095-4.

This is a good little book which ironically suffers from the preface and first two chapters being sufficiently good to make it almost unnecessary to read the rest. The chapters on imaging and treatment will be of value to anyone reading for examinations but too short for those who have to deal with cases. There is however a good up to date reference list.

The pathology and epidemiology are dealt with very well, I have never read better. It is questionable whether the price of £34 represents good value for the 30 pages involved, especially as the information on diagnostic pathology is readily available in recent journals.

DJ POLLOCK

Intracranial Tumors in Infancy and Childhood. Basic Research, Diagnosis and Treatment. Progress in Experimental Tumor Research. Vol 30. Eds N Kageyama, K Takakura, F Epstein, HJ Hoffman, L Schut. (Pp 374; £135.) Karger. 1987. ISBN 3-8055-4436-7.

This is a disappointing book. The interest in childhood brain tumours is great, as they are the second commonest malignancy after the leukaemia-lymphoma group. They also present a wide histological spectrum and biological behaviour ranging from benign to the highly malignant. Some of them, including medulloblastomas and neuroblastomas, are capable of differentiation and thus could give a clue to their derivation and evolution. Recent developments in molecular biology have shown oncogene expression in some of these neoplasms: neuroblastomas and retinoblastomas have been extensively studied.

It is therefore surprising that this book disappoints the reader's expectation and does not do justice to an exciting field of neuro-oncology. The book is, in fact, a collection of papers delivered at the First International Symposium on Paediatric Neuro-oncology, held in November 1985 in Toba, Japan.

There is a section on basic research and a single chapter on pathology and classification. Under the section heading "General diagnosis and treatment", there is only a single paper on medical imaging. Major groups of neoplasms, medulloblastomas,

astrocytomas, ependymomas, pineal tumours, etc., are then reviewed, but the contributions are uneven and a central concept fails to emerge. Aspects of pathology, diagnosis, prognosis and therapy are briefly and haphazardly covered.

The standard of illustration is high, as is the price of the book. At £135 it is greatly overpriced.

PL LANTOS

Immunopathology of the Skin. 3rd ed. Ed EH Beutner, TP Chorzelski, V Kumar. (Pp 769; £78.) John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-471-84074-2.

This is the third edition of a book which is regarded by many as standard reference text for those who practise diagnostic immunodermatology and run immunofluorescence services for the diagnosis of bullous disease and lupus erythematosus. The book has steadily grown in size with successive editions and we now have a book divided into four main sections. The first is the guide to diagnostic immunofluorescence, the second contains a lot of new information of bullous diseases including information on some of the rarer bullous diseases, the third is devoted exclusively to connective tissue diseases, and the fourth is devoted to a mixed collection of dermatoses with important immunohistological findings. This includes the wart virus immunopathology, lichen planus, keratinocyte cytoplasmic antibodies, immunopathology of graft versus host disease, and other problems.

The bulk of the book is written by the editors who express in the introduction their gratitude to Professor Jablonska. It is well written but at this point in time it is interesting to speculate just how long immunofluorescence rather than immunoperoxidase will remain the diagnostic laboratory technique for bullous disease and lupus erythematosus. At present this is really a historical accident and it will be interesting to see if over the next few years laboratories do not move more to the permanent immunoperoxidase preparations. Similarly, looking at the field of indirect immunofluorescence on serum samples, one wonders how far away we are from a radioimmunoassay.

This book is useful and should be available for bench reference in the laboratory of all those who carry out diagnostic immunofluorescence on dermatological preparations.

RONA M MACKIE

Fetal and Neonatal Pathology. Ed Jean W Keeling. (Pp 590; 587 figs.; £99.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 0-387-16211-9.

This 28 chapter book edited by Jean Keeling provides a very clear and concise cover of the subject but with particular emphasis on common important problems facing a neonatal pathologist. It is a well set out book reflecting the editor's knowledge on the subject. This book becomes available at a most opportune time because neonatal paediatrics is an expanding field, in part due to rapid progression in prenatal diagnosis and more sophisticated treatment of very premature babies.

The first half of the book covers general important subjects with an excellent description of how to perform a perinatal necropsy, with an appendix on normal histology at different stages of development. It discusses problems related to first and second trimester of pregnancy and then continues with the latter half of pregnancy. I feel the first 15 chapters will be of particular help to those not as familiar with the subject and provide direction in tackling problems such as a fetus with a prenatal suspicion of congenital abnormality, a macerated stillbirth or intrapartum asphyxia, just to mention some.

The second half of the book is systematically orientated and covers, in detail, all the major systems with the initial part of each chapter giving a quick description of the development of those particular organs.

I feel this book is an absolute necessity for any department providing a neonatal pathology service and others involved in neonatal paediatrics will also find it a valuable reference.

HELENE C REES

Yearbook of Hematology 1987. Ed JL Spivak. (Pp 372; £34.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-8151-8325-9.

The Year Book series has been produced for a number of years covering a wide range of medical topics. This is the first of a new series dealing with haematology. The aim of the book is to provide scientists and clinicians with a wide ranging survey of the world literature relating to haematological topics. The editor achieves this by selecting multiple abstracts of original articles from medical journals and including expert assessment as to the importance and relevance of each article.

The papers are grouped in chapters which

cover red blood cells, white cells, platelet and coagulation factors, haematological malignancies, transfusion, and AIDS and the blood.

There has been a good selection since many articles have provided an important contribution to increasing our understanding of unanswered problems in haematology. The expert assessments range from well considered and valuable statements to cryptic one line comments which are of little use.

There are two problems: the first is that although the emphasis in the introduction is in providing the reader with an up to date source of information, in reality nearly all the papers included in the 1987 Year Book were originally published in 1985; the other worry is that it is uncertain who would benefit from buying and reading this book. Most haematologists with special interests will already be aware at the time of publication of most of the papers which the editor has included. Those who are training in haematology and the non-specialist would perhaps be better served by well written review articles which are regularly included in a number of publications.

DA WINFIELD

Atlas of Fetal Sectional Anatomy with Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging. G Isaacson, MC Mintz, ES Crelin. (Pp 184; 278 figs; DM 228.) Springer. 1986. ISBN 3-540-96248-4.

In this atlas a series of anatomical sections of the head, neck, and trunk in the coronal, sagittal, and axial planes are correlated with appearances of the same sections on ultrasound and magnetic resonance scans. The anatomical sections are well prepared and each is accompanied by a line drawing with detailed labelling of structures. Additional chapters illustrate development of the brain, limbs, and heart. The quality of all the illustrations is excellent.

This book would be a useful addition to the library of a histopathologist interested in neonatal pathology. It provides new ideas for a sectional approach to post mortem dissection, especially where comparison with imaging methods used in life would be helpful.

The atlas also fulfils the need for an anatomical reference text for ultrasonographers. The clinical application of the magnetic resonance images is at present limited but likely to increase in the future.

JUDITH AW WEBB
HELENE REES

Introduction to Biopsy Interpretation and Surgical Pathology. 2nd ed. JCE Underwood. (Pp 217; £19.50.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-17495-8.

The first edition of this book was very well received by trainees and seniors alike. It successfully aimed to give an outline of the working diagnostic pathologist's world. Some indication of the history of the various methods of examination, the philosophical basis of how we achieve a diagnosis, and a review of the working pathologist's armamentarium formed the basis of the book.

This second edition retains most of the matter in the first, and is now extended to consider cytology, post mortem examinations, some of the various forms of quality control, and immunohistochemistry. The balance between the topics remains excellent. Old and new have been given their place. The whole book is an excellent read. This second edition can be thoroughly recommended to histopathologists at all levels. It is both an introduction and a very enjoyable companion.

JD DAVIES

Central Nervous System Diseases. Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology. Vol 10. Volume Eds HS Rosenberg, J Bernstein (Pp 264; £120.) Karger. 1987. ISBN 3-8055-4403-0.

Two volumes of this series in one year represent an outstanding effort on the part of the editors and the publishers - Volume 9, *Neoplasia in Infancy and Childhood*, appeared earlier - but this is presumably restoring the balance of past production difficulties rather than the shape of things to come. Four chapters focus on CNS tumours (CNS tumours of childhood, biology of human gliomas, primary intracranial germ cell tumours, and retinoblastoma). The other contributions are an account of the free living amoebae pathogenic for man, *Naegleria* and *Acanthamoeba*, and perhaps surprisingly in view of the volume's title a review of the uncommon malformation, Sirenomelia. There is a uniformly high standard of writing and illustration throughout and the volume is beautifully produced. The only reservation concerns the broad overlap of content between the two most recent volumes of *Perspectives* and Finegold's *Pathology of Neoplasia in Children and Adolescents*, the latter scoring heavily on a cost comparison. *Perspectives* appears to be caught in the narrow market high cost trap, a great pity for an excellent series.

AAM GIBSON

STAT: The Laboratory's Role. Kathleen Sazama, Mary G Haugh. (Pp. 100; \$27.50) The Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0-89189-210-9

This small book examines thoroughly the issues which a clinical biochemist should face when establishing a rapid response (STAT) analytical service in a hospital biochemistry department. The book is not designed to cover the provision of an out of hours service but many of the problems are the same. The many figures of algorithms showing the decision processes, and the tables listing summaries of data, advantages and disadvantages of the procedures are very helpful. Differences between American and United Kingdom practice appear from time to time, but mostly the United Kingdom readers will be familiar with the problems described. At \$27.50 this book is expensive for its size, but at the cost of about 2.5 of hours calls it may be considered a good investment for a newly appointed consultant or top grade biochemist.

MG RINSLAND

Systemic Pathology. 3rd ed. Volume 1. Alimentary Tract. Ed Basil C Morson (Pp 462; £65.) Churchill Livingstone. 1987. ISBN 0-443-03095-2.

It will be reassuring to many pathologists that this latest volume in the systemic pathology series sustains the high standards of its distinguished predecessors. In general it fulfils its promise to be up to date and comprehensive. It is also admirably documented and for the most part well illustrated. While it would be invidious to single out individual sections, those concerning the oral cavity, teeth, and salivary glands are especially helpful and impressive. Inevitably in a rapidly developing specialty some of the sections have been overtaken by events, in particular the interesting, albeit controversial, developments which are taking place with regard to the aetiology of gastritis. It is also a pity that the new prognostic protocol for colorectal carcinoma developed by one of the contributors could not have been included. Nonetheless this book is indispensable reading for any pathologist engaged in, or training for, service work or seeking to specialise in alimentary pathology; nor will clinical gastroenterologists in search of enlightenment be disappointed.

FD LEE