on lupus type anticoagulant, an area of considerable current research interest, it is surprising that no mention of anticardiolipin antibodies is made. As an otherwise comprehensive and up to date review of the subject, this volume can be highly recommended to clinicians and pathologists alike.

M GREAVES

Immunoperoxidase Techniques. A Practical Approach to Tumor Diagnosis. M Nadj, AR Morales. (Pp 196; \$116.) Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0 89189 213 3.

This account falls into three main sections. There is a short introduction to immunoperoxidase techniques, including their history, comparisons of methods, a detailed description of the authors' chosen technique, and some of the pitfalls. There follow 30 chapters of one to three pages each, on individual antigens and their occurrence in benign and malignant tissue, with a final chapter outlining a systematic approach to tumor diagnosis. Lastly there are 43 colour plates with a total of 344 colour photomicrographs of stained tissues.

The authors are acknowledged experts and they approach their subject with enthusiasm. The book is attractively produced, and has a very personal flavour; less kindly, one could call it one sided. It is too brief and superficial to be a good reference work; and the short bibliographies after each chapter are heavily weighted towards older publications, with relatively little more recent than 1983. It is hard to see who ought to invest the large sum of \$116 for this book. A trainee histopathologist would enjoy browsing through it, and might be inspired to take up immunohistochemistry as a result; once he did so, he would set aside the book for meatier competitors.

NGP SLATER

Prostaglandins and Related Substances. A Practical Approach. Ed C Benedetto, RG McDonald-Gibson, S Nigam, TF Slater. (Pp 330; £18.) IRL Press. 1987. ISBN (soft-bound) 1 85221 031 1.

This book is one of a practical approach series published by IRL Press Limited and concerns the eicosanoids. These unsaturated, ubiquitous lipids are derived from ara-

chidonic and other fatty acid precursors by the cyclo-oxygenase or lipoxygenase pathways. The former gives rise to the prostaglandins, prostacyclins, and thromboxenes, while the latter lead to the formation of the leucotrienes and the lipoxines.

My first impression after reading the 330 page text was one of profound relief not to be directly involved in this complex area. The multiplicity of these frequently unstable compounds, which are present at extremely low concentrations and often have half lives measured in seconds, is further complicated by interconversions and difficulties in differentiating primary products from metabolites. Several chapters relate to the analytical techniques used, of which some, especially immunoassays, are prone to give erroneously high values.

This book is unsuitable for a general readership but at £18 may provide a useful summary for research workers actively involved, or about to be involved, in this field.

K LONDON

Cancer of the Liver, Esophagus, and Nasopharynx. Ed G Wagner, Y-H Zhang. (Pp 208; 46 figs.; soft cover DM 128.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3 540 16967 9.

This Chinese-German symposium on cancer of the liver, oesophagus, and nasopharynx was held in Heidelberg in 1985. These cancers are responsible for 60% of all cancer deaths in China, and it has been suggested that selenium could be used as a chemopreventive agent. Liver cell cancer is linked to hepatitis B virus infection, alcoholic cirrhosis, consumption of house ditch and field well water, and aflatoxins. Cigarette smoking is regarded as a cofactor. Surgical resection of small cancers is accompanied by five year survival figures of 55–60%. Exogenous risk factors have been identified for carcinoma of the oesophagus in association with poor nutrition and familial aggregation. Nitrosamines are clearly implicated. Consumption of fruit and yellow/green vegetables lowers the risk. Chemopreventive agents have prevented severe dysplasia progressing to cancer over a seven year period in a limited study. The Curacao story of petrol contamination of water supplies combined with exposure to plant diterpine ester promoters is illuminating. Nasopharyngeal carcinomas with poorly differentiated patterns and lymphocytic infiltration have a strong association with Epstein-Barr virus. Antibody

detection has been used as a screening test. This publication will interest the cancer expert.

H THOMPSON

Atlas of Cardiovascular Pathology. Current Histopathology. Vol 12. EGJ Olsen. (Pp 131; £65.) MTP Press Limited. 1987. ISBN 0 8520 0866 X.

Despite its aim to serve as a day to day guide for practising histopathologists, this atlas would seem considerably more suited to the trainee junior pathologist. The initial chapter with accounts of the commoner necropsy techniques for examination of the heart, annotated macroscopic plates illustrating normal anatomy, and performance of sections in echocardiographic planes will be an invaluable aid to the novice at necropsy.

The remainder of the book amply covers the major pathologies of the cardiovascular system with well chosen and displayed macroscopic specimens, but it is rather disappointing to discover that the microscopic plates show considerable variation in quality.

Each chapter includes a clear text section which provides definitions and simple understandable descriptions of the conditions covered, most of which are illustrated. Line diagrams and electron micrographs feature where appropriate.

With few reservations this book would seem useful as a day to day guide to the cardiovascular system for the trainee pathologist.

TINA MATTHEWS

Colour Atlas of Pathology. L Giarelli, M Melato, G Antonutto. (Pp 721; £97.50.) The Butterworth Group. 1987. ISBN 0 407 00301 0.

The excellent reproduction of the colour photographs in this publication amply supports the authors' belief that imagery, especially at the macroscopic level, is a vital component in the teaching of pathology, especially during the early phases of medical training, and may also be helpful to clinicians particularly in the surgical field. Unlike other comparable atlases, many of the pictures approach actual size and with few exceptions achieve their intentions. The