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

photomicrography, however, is more variable in quality and much less extensive in scope. The same is also true of the text even when one bears in mind the need for brevity, and there are few references. In no sense can this publication be regarded as a textbook. Nonetheless for its intended purpose this atlas, albeit expensive, is pictorially impressive, and at a time when macroscopic pathology is less used than it might be it could without doubt have considerable value to those involved in pathology instruction at all levels.

FD LEE

Notices

International Update on Dermatology and Dermatopathology Brighton, England: September 2-5 1989

An International Update in Dermatology and Dermatopathology is being organised jointly by the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the British Society for Dermatopathology. Guest speakers include:

A Bernard Ackerman (USA)
J T Headington (USA)
Richard J Reed (USA)
M H Brownstein (USA)
K Lennert (Kiel)
Daniel J Santa Cruz (USA)
W Mitchell Sams (USA)
G W Milton (Australia)
N A Soter (USA)
M Seywright (UK)
J H Saurat (Geneva)
E Wilson Jones (UK)
R M Mackie (UK)
P H McKee (UK)
M M Black (UK)
C D M Fletcher (UK)
N P Smith (UK)
M J Tidman (UK)
F Wojnarowska (UK)

Topics include: Appendage tumours, connective tissue neoplasms, melanocytic tumours, inflammatory dermatoses, lymphoid infiltrates, immunologically-mediated skin diseases, vasculitides, epidermolysis bullosa and other bullous dermatoses plus two slide seminars.

● For further information please contact Dr P H McKee, British Association of Dermatologists, 6 St. Andrew's Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LB.

Practical Skin Pathology Course Amsterdam, July 11-14, 1988

This is a comprehensive and practical update of dermatopathology for pathologists and dermatologists, sponsored by the Dutch Society of Dermatology and Venereology and the Dutch Society of Pathology. Microscopes and syllabus material will be provided. There will be 24 formal lectures and eight supervised microscope sessions (32 hours) of 400 unknown workshop slides.

For further information please write to: Theo M. Starink, Skin Pathology Course, B.v. Zuylenlaan 11, 1183 EE Amstelveen, The Netherlands, or to Martin H. Brownstein, Skin Pathology Course, 2 North Plandome Road, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050, U.S.A.

National Breast Screening Education Programme

Pathology of Breast Cancer Screening Nottingham Training Centre

The course programme begins with a three day multidisciplinary introductory meeting, the third day being devoted to a specialised course for each discipline. The pathology course includes lectures and workshops with particular reference to the normal breast, benign disease, borderline lesions, malignant tumours preoperative diagnostic techniques and quality control.

Over the subsequent three months course members are invited to attend four full day and one half day sessions involving assessment and referral clinics, cytology reporting, specimen cut up and reporting and problem case discussion.

● **Course Tutors:** Drs IO Ellis and CW Elston

● **Course Dates:** 29 February; 1, 2 March 6, 7, 8 June; 12, 13, 14 September 5, 6, 7 December

● **Further details and registration forms from:**

Mrs Betty Price,
Helen Garrod Breast Screening Unit,
City Hospital,
Nottingham NG5 1PB
Tel: (0602) 691169 Ext 2697

Sarstedt Research Prize 1988

The German Society for Clinical Chemistry will be awarding the Sarstedt Research Prize for 1988 on the occasion of the joint meeting of the Austrian, German, and Swiss Societies of Clinical Chemistry in Vienna.

The prize of DM 50 000 (@ £16 500) is donated by Sarstedt, Nuembrecht, West Germany for outstanding and original work in the field of clinical chemistry, haematology, blood coagulation and automated analysis related to the development of diagnostic methods in the field of early diagnosis of disease. Entrants for the 1988 prize should present relevant scientific papers to: Professor H Greiling, Secretary, Sarstedt Research Prize Committee, Department of Clinical Chemistry and Pathobiology, University of Technology (RWTH) Aachen, Pauwelsstrasse, D-5100 Aachen, West Germany. Scientific papers presented should either have been published or accepted for publication between 1 May 1985 and 1 May 1988. Closing date for entries is 31 May 1988.

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGISTS

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Junior membership of the Association is available to all trainees in pathology for up to six years after the start of training. The annual subscription is £15 and may be claimed against tax. All junior members receive copies of the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. Other benefits include membership of the Junior Members' Group and a regular junior members' newsletter; the ACP Newsletter and all other documents regularly sent to full members including the postgraduate education programme.

Apply to: Dr PP Anthony, Education Secretary, Postgraduate Medical School, Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5DW, Devon.