

ococcal, chlamydial, and treponemal infections, but also by chapters on topics for which information is more scarce; for example those on trichomonal, protozoal and human papillomavirus infections. A tendency for some authors outside Britain to not do justice to the British literature is only a small criticism of a book which contains a mine of information and which is very nicely produced. I have to say, however, that despite the decreasing value of the dollar, £80 or thereabouts for a book of this size seems extortionate, and it is likely only to find a place as a departmental book or in a library.

D TAYLOR-ROBINSON

Practical Paediatric Haematology. A Laboratory worker's Guide to Blood Disorders in Children. Ed RF Hinchliffe, JS Lilleyman. (Pp 410; £42.50.) John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-471-91029-5.

This excellent book sets out to help the laboratory haematologist, specifically the non-paediatric specialist, to find a way through the labyrinth of paediatric blood disorders, and advise practically how to investigate and manage such situations. Despite its limited objectives it achieves more than that. Every haematology laboratory should provide a blood sampling service for children and cope adequately with small samples. So many do not! The first three chapters contain the most useful, practical, easy to follow advice on sampling which I have seen in any text, and even specialist paediatric haematology staff would benefit from reading and digesting the contents. Despite no pretensions to comprehensive coverage the review of marrow changes are amazingly complete, especially the tables covering the "bewildering constellation of eponymous" storage disorders. There is a slight tendency with those and in the very comprehensive chapter on cypopenias and bone marrow failure to go beyond the remit of the book but as a specialist those are the parts I enjoyed most. In fact I had not expected such a wealth and breadth of knowledge compacted into such a small book. All you need to guide you through blood product transfusion, investigation of haemolysis, or marrow infiltration is there. There are very nice touches such as "parents frequently ask", "with children a friendly and positive approach is important" etc. Despite what our political masters may say

laboratory workers, medical or scientific, are and should be in close contact with patients. They want to understand not just the machines and values but what it means to patients, especially children, with whom in my experience staff more often than not have great rapport and empathy.

This volume serves as a reference work in terms of its final chapter of normal ranges, and in methodology, but is so readable as a practically comprehensive work. All the authors and especially the editors should be congratulated in their efforts. This book is essential reading for all, no matter whom, who have any contact with children and their blood disorders. It should be on the shelf in every laboratory ready for easy access.

OB EDEN

Autoimmunity and Autoimmune Disease. CIBA Foundation Symposium 129. (Pp 278; 28.95.) John Willey. 1987. ISBN 0 471 91095 3.

This is a vintage addition to the admirable Ciba Foundation series. Factual enough to be informative, sufficiently interwoven with narrative to be readable, and with an ample measure of admitted ignorance, it provides the perfect summary for the initiated and the novice alike. Practised readers will be struck by the manner in which yesterday's dogmatism has evaporated. Is autoimmunity really totally divorced from conventional immunity? Is it so clearly the converse of tolerance? The failure of normal immunity are more subtle. No one, for example, can pontificate on forbidden clones and blithely ignore complement defects. The ambitious newcomer, aware that this group of diseases still presents an unscaled precipice to the investigational climber, can never hope to grasp the nub of the problem from the ever receding river of journal articles but can do so from this distillate. If the discussions after each presentation were all that the book contained it would still present a wealth of ideas for projects and theses. Thus there is no ex-cathedra pronouncement on idiosyncratic networks and their relevance to immune regulation; the reader can agonise over this along with the participants. Nor is there bland optimism about the future of therapeutic immunomanipulation; the extent of its promise and fulfilment is there for anyone to judge. The references are challenging, but not comprehensive. This selectivity reflects the spirit of the book.

AM DENMAN

Notices

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr David Melcher, Histopathology Department, Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE.

Lung Pathology Course

A course on lung pathology will be held at the Brompton Hospital, London, 18-20 July 1988.

Further details may be obtained from: The Postgraduate Secretary, Cardiothoracic Institute, London SW3 6HP (01-351 8003)

Conduction system and nerves of the heart life and death: a clinicopathological update

University of Milan, May 30-June 1, 1988

There will be three sessions: conduction system and nerves of the heart in the anatomoclinical setting; clinicopathological features of arrhythmias; clinicopathological features of sudden cardiac death.

Further details from: Drs Lino Rossi Luigi Matturri, Istituto di Anatomia Istologia Patologica, Università di Milano Via della commenda, 19, 20122 Milano Italy.