evidence showing similarities between craniopharyngioma and adamantinoma of the jaw.

I am delighted that a fifth edition has appeared. It will remain the standard work on the pathology of tumours of the nervous system for some time yet. The book has increased considerably in thickness; as a result it is now not so comfortable to handle and only reads with ease when opened towards the centre of the book. It is now truly a reference book rather than a "readers" book.

WR TIMPERLEY

Practical Medical Microbiology. 13th ed. Ed JG Collee, JP Duguid, AG Fraser, BP Marmon (Pp 918; £29.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1989. ISBN 0-443-02323-8.

Volume 1 of the 13th edition of Mackie and McCartney's *Medical Microbiology* appeared in 1978. Here at last is volume 2, but issued as a stand alone manual of laboratory practice, with a new title to reflect this status.

The first 15 chapters cover the basics of diagnostic microbiology. Much of the material is difficult to find in a collated form elsewhere. Thus the chapters on microscopy, staining, media preparation and safety are essential reading for all aspiring microbiologists. The use of kits is scantily dealt with, and a discriminating paragraph would have been helpful. The next 23 chapters describe identification methods for various groups of bacteria. The style of confining detailed methodology to the end of each chapter makes for easy reading or reference. The virology section is geared to the non-specialist laboratory and not intended to be exhaustive.

Overall, the book is a success. More could have been said on quality control and on systemic fungal infections. There are minor discrepancies in areas of overlap between chapters, but these reflect an inexact science.

The book is reasonably priced, and should not be relegated to the departmental library. A personal copy is highly recommended.

GL RIDGWAY

Endocrine-Dependent Breast Cancer: Critical Assessment of Recent Advances. Ed RJ Santen, E Juhos. (Pp 105; \$22.) Hans Huber Publishers. 1989. ISBN 0-920887-37-6.

This book consists of a series of short papers presented to a symposium supported by Ciba-Geigy at the 14th International Cancer

Congress held in Budapest during 1986. It is almost exclusively devoted to studies of steroid metabolism, their receptors, and their effects on experimental mammary tumours and advanced human breast cancer. Brief mention is made of some growth factors. The main thrust of the book is to consider possible therapeutic implications. Probably this reflects the intended readership.

As an outsider to this particular field of breast cancer studies, I found this book unsatisfactory. This was not because of the presentations, which in themselves are clear and well illustrated. The main defect is the overall lack of orientation and editorial linkage. The brief discussion at the end of the book helps no further. I suspect that most pathologists would have welcomed a broad synopsis of the current direction and earlier progress in the topic and related areas. Alas, for that the general reader will have to go elsewhere.

JD DAVIES

Statistics with Confidence. Confidence Intervals and Statistical Guidelines. MJ Gardner, DG Altman. (Pp 140; soft cover UK £7.95; abroad £9.50.) British Medical Journal. 1989. ISBN 0-7279-0222-9.

This book is ideal for medical personnel with a good knowledge of basic statistics. The authors emphasise on several occasions that basic statistical knowledge is assumed. They also state that those with limited understanding of statistical procedures should seek the advice of a statistician at the planning stage of a research project, but many references to textbooks and more detailed papers are given in the book, in addition to a section explaining the mathematical notation used throughout.

Medical journals now expect papers to be submitted quoting confidence intervals where appropriate, and *Statistics with Confidence* contains very good explanations of the reasons for using confidence intervals, how to calculate them, and many relevant worked examples. These who are intimidated by mathematical notation may need help from an expert at this stage. There are also frequent references to a computer program specially designed by the authors to assist with calculating confidence intervals. This will be reviewed in due course.

The statistical guidelines and checklists give a comprehensive guide on how to design, analyse, and write up a medical research project. These sections of the book must be excellent references for both potential authors and journal staff.

LINDA M ANDERSON

Man-made Mineral Fibres and Radon. IARC Monographs on the Evaluations of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans. Vol. 43. (Pp 300; Sw fr 65.) World Health Organisation. 1988. ISBN 92-832-1243-6.

The monographs of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) provide unique assessments of the carcinogenic risks to man. They are well known to toxicologists and they deserve much more attention by medical scientists as sources of information and expert judgements which show the interplay between medicine, industry, and the regulation that is coming to underly the public health.

This volume follows the typical format of describing the nature, occurrence, and analytical methods, followed by epidemiological and experimental data, and a final evaluation of carcinogenic risk to man.

It deals first with 'man-made mineral fibres', including domestic glass, wool, and other materials. They are important in their own right as insulation and as a replacement for asbestos. Many experiments and remarkable epidemiological surveys have shown that some types may pose a risk to man, although modern controls make them most safe to use. Why tumours are formed is not known, but the experiments are helping to show some of the mechanisms of tumorigenesis.

The other substance discussed is radon. Although probably the oldest known industrial carcinogen, its environmental importance is a recent discovery. Again, the experimental and epidemiological work are fertile examples for teaching, as is the estimation of the dose response of lung cancer to inhaled radon. That alone deserves attention in a country troubled by Sellafield and its α -emitters, but of greater interest are the recent suggestions that in certain areas of the world radon in houses could be the cause of up to 15% of lung cancer in the general public. How will science and society face up to that?

This book should be absorbed by everyone interested in quantitative medicine and used by anyone arguing about public health hazards and their relief.

AD DAYAN

Postgraduate Haematology. 3rd ed. Ed AV Hoffbrand and SM Lewis. (Pp 715; £60.) Heinemann Medical Books. 1989. ISBN 0-433-15054-8.

From the time of its first edition in 1972 'Hoffbrand and Lewis' has been one of the standard textbooks for a generation of

haematologists because with a sound knowledge of its contents, practical laboratory and clinical experience, and a bit of luck, the formidable hurdle of the examination for membership of the Royal College of Pathologists was easily negotiated. With this new edition the editors have ensured that it will continue to be essential reading for postgraduate haematology students and also for established consultants.

They have achieved this by retaining the previous format of selecting eminent haematologists to contribute individual chapters which cover the full range of topics, thereby providing a comprehensive description of current British haematological practice. There is always the danger that well established textbooks may fail to keep up to date, especially as there has been a rapid expansion of knowledge and new technology in haematology in the past few years. This is not the case with the third edition and there are new sections in cytogenetics and leukaemogenesis, marrow transplantation, the immune system, AIDS and blood transfusion plus the incorporation of new information on molecular biology and monoclonal antibody techniques into established chapters from previous editions.

When the second edition in 1981 was reviewed in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, it was described as one of the best texts in any haematology department. The same comment applies equally well to this new edition.

DA WINFIELD

Genetic and Related Effects: An Updating of Selected IARC Monographs from Vols. 1 to 42. IARC Monographs of the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans. Supplement 6. (Pp 729; Sw fr 80.) World Health Organisation. 1987. ISBN 92-832-1409-9.

The IARC monographs on carcinogenic risks are like buried treasure—attractive, usually appealing, and carefully hoarded by the user, who would not be without them.

The latest supplement increases the value of the series by presenting a critical up to date (1986) account of the genotoxicity of the compounds and mixtures already assessed. After discussing the predictive value of mutagenicity tests, there is a comprehensive list of all the published data by compound and test type, experimental conditions, and doses or concentrations used, followed by a bar chart of the activity profile. These are fully referenced and evaluated. Brief comments are also made about likely circumstances of human exposure. In future, like the GAP program from NICHHS, it might well be computerised.

This book is valuable for reference and teaching and should be consulted if not always accepted by everyone interested in cancer in industrial man.

AD DAYAN

Atlas of Neuropathology. H Okazaki, B Scheithauer. (Pp 315; £80.) Gower Medical Publishing. 1988. ISBN 0-397-44667-5.

This latest atlas of neuropathology from the Mayo Clinic covers a broad spectrum of disease affecting adult and paediatric nervous systems. The eight chapters are well proportioned, the one dealing with tumours of the nervous system being the most extensive. Photographs of gross specimens are outstanding in many instances are correlated with radiographic (predominantly computed tomography) findings. Histological appearances are also well illustrated by good quality photomicrographs. The accompanying text is succinct, accurate, readable, and briefly, but well referenced.

Unfortunately, there is one major drawback to this otherwise excellent atlas: why are the legends for the illustrations included in the text? Had these been placed beneath the figures with magnification size where appropriate, the book would have been much easier to use.

Despite this criticism the quality, in particular of the macroscopic pictures, is unrivalled by any other atlas on the subject. The book is well priced and will be useful for general pathologists, neuropathologists, neurologists, and neurosurgeons.

SUSAN E DANIEL

Quality Assurance in Haematology. Ed SM Lewis and RL Verwilghen. (Pp 297; £25.) Baillière Tindall. 1988. ISBN 0-7020-1322-6.

This book by experts brings together the essential features of the many written standards and recommendations of the past decade, access to which is often difficult. There are also many useful practical points and also excellent chapters on the application and teaching of statistics. The publication is timely because quality assurance is a dominant feature in accreditation and audit. It is made clear that quality assurance starts at the bedside and is far more than a statistical analysis of machine output; even laboratory design and management are included. The clinical as well as the statistical significance of laboratory results is referred to but not enlarged upon, and blood transfusion receives rather superficial consideration.

This is a reasonably priced book which every haematology department should use and lend to the unit manager to make him/her aware of the complexities and cost of good laboratory practice.

DW DAWSON

Diagnostic Neuropathology. MM Esiri, DR Oppenheimer. (Pp 403; £59.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1989. ISBN 0-632-01951-4.

The authors intend this book to be a practical guide to neuropathological methods for trainees and general pathologists. It is easy to read, well laid out, and has a good index. A number of chapters useful for those not practised in neuropathological methods are included, notably on techniques in the post mortem room and on brain cutting with photographs and corresponding labelled line diagrams on coronal and horizontal brain slices. The general text includes chapters on the major processes affecting the central nervous system and a chapter each on peripheral nerve and muscle. These are as comprehensive as is reasonable in a book of this nature and are well illustrated with high quality black and white photographs. Several colour plates are also included.

As a basic general text of neuropathology the book has several competitors, but the earlier sections on practical methods and anatomy will be an advantage for most departments. The price seems reasonable for a good quality hardback book of this type.

DK ROBERTS

Haematology. A Combined Theoretical and Technical Approach. A Simmons. (Pp 443; soft cover £25.) WB Saunders. 1989. ISBN 0-7216-1716-6.

The first 174 pages deal with blood cell formation, anaemias, leucocyte and platelet disorders and blood coagulation. This forms the theoretical portion and is necessarily brief, but it is unfortunate that the 19 colour plates have reproduced so poorly that, except for the two on malaria, they are of no value. There follows a most useful chapter on quality assurance followed by one on that much neglected topic—blood collection. The chapters on technical procedures, each being preceded by the principles followed by technical details, reference ranges, interpretation, and sources of error, are well done. A choice of a particular method is made for a test and this is not always the test most frequently used in the UK. Errors are few.