

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 423; 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