interpretation of laboratory results confined to
the elderly would have been regarded with
incredulity. Not only had there been little or
no work done on establishing the normal
reference range but there was no general
recognition that values for the elderly might
be different from the normal adult range.
Moreover, there would have been suspicion
that detailed investigation of the elderly was
either inappropriate or a waste of time; but
times they are a-changing. Successful treat-
ment of the elderly is now commonplace and
it is understood that some test results which
are abnormal in a young adult do not indicate
disease in an 80 year old. How far to
investigate a particular patient's abnormal
result is an everyday clinical problem. A
better feel for the importance of laboratory
testing can only help decision making and
Professor Rochman's guidance is welcome.
It is aimed at clinicians and is clearly written
but in striving to be comprehensive (haema-
tology is covered as well as biochemistry)
there is not the necessary depth which a
geriatrician might hope for in a specialist
monograph. Recommended as a useful read
for doctors in training.

PW OVERSTALL

The T-Cell Receptor. UCLA Symposia on
Molecular and Cellular Biology New Series
Vol 37. Ed MM Davies, J Kappler. (Pp 432;

It is now clear that genes encoding the $\alpha$ and
$\beta$-chains of the T-cell receptor account for
the specificity of the cells expressing them;
and many of the functions of cells expressing
these receptors have been documented. In
addition, the properties of T-cells expressing
receptor $\gamma$ and $\delta$-chains is in some way linked
to non-MHC-restricted lysis, or to MHC
class II restricted signals: such cells may be
important in inflammatory diseases such as
rheumatoid arthritis. In this context the
present publication in the molecular and
cellular biology series is of particular impor-
tance. It contains a unique collection of
articles which describe the important
molecular events related to T-cell receptor
expression, and the potential importance of
the various T-cell receptor molecules in T-
cell activation and maturation. T-cells
interact with foreign antigens through their
membrane bound T-cell receptors, which are
composed of heterodimers of $\alpha$ and $\beta$-chains
each of which contain variable and constant
regions. The mapping and generation of
diversity and polymorphism is therefore
important to an understanding of T-cell
antigen interactions; articles included in this
publication refer to the gene maps of $\alpha$ and $\beta$-
chains of human and murine origin. The T-
cell receptor is associated with CD-3 polypeptides
on the surface of mature peripheral
blood T-lymphocytes mediating specific recognition of antigen in the context
of MHC products; a further T-cell receptor
(TCR-$\gamma$) has been reported; the association
of accessory molecules such as CD-4 and
CD-8 not covalently bound to the T-cell
receptor is under investigation: these findings
and problems are all comprehensively
addressed in this book. Furthermore, other
chapters cover the molecular aspects of
recognition molecules, such as LFA-1 and
CD-2, and ICAM-1 and LFA-3, which are
important in the process of cell-cell contact.
The book will prove an excellent reference
for those researchers and clinicians who wish
to gain a precise understanding of the
molecular basis of antigen recognition, and is
an example of how molecular biology has
been applied to further our understanding
of an important subject of biology and
immunology.

CW POTTER

Neuropathology. Current Topics in Path-
ology. Vol 76. Ed CL Berry. (Pp 155; 85 figs;
DM 168.) Springer. 1988. ISBN 3-540-
16732-3.

Conventional pathologists commonly either
refer neuropathological problems to remote
and tardy experts, or take a limited approach
and may not make the best diagnostic and
educational use of their cases. As an attach-
ment on such unnecessary weaknesses, Professor
Berry has edited interesting chapters by four
experts. Two are excellent and should be
used by everyone who performs necropsies—
Professor Adams on non-missile head
injuries and Weller on how to examine the
nervous system (the latter should have come
first). Both are full of skilled, practical
advice, and clear illustrations, ranging from
use of a fish slice to diffuse axonal degenera-
tion. The other two are more mixed. Dr
Anderson has taken a brief but encyclo-
paedic view of acute viral encephalitis that
mingles common and fashionable disorders
in a way that will help trainees more than
practioners. Dr Scholz has covered most
spontaneous causes of dementia in the adult
in a similar manner. Both of these authors
have an irritating wealth of spelling errors,
and Dr Anderson has also suffered unexpect-
tedly poor black and white micro-
photographs accompanying excellent
coloured plates. On balance, the real value of
the expertise of Adams and Weller domi-
nates and makes this a book worth having in
every laboratory, because no one can fail to
gain from studying the brain.

AD DAYAN

Special Veterinary Pathology. RG Thomson.
55664-045-5.

Writing for undergraduate veterinary
students Dr Thomson and his colleagues
have also produced a book that will enthrall
postgraduate clinical pathologists, albeit on
a "fancy that" basis. It is beautifully
produced, lavishly illustrated, and construc-
ted on a system by system basis rather than a
species by species one—so there is a chapter
on the endocrine system, one on the
haemopoietic system, and so on.

Gems abound. Immune haemolytic
anaemias are particularly troublesome in
dogs, piglets commonly become iron
deficient, bracken poisoning causes aplastic
anaemia in cows, horses get haemophilus
gastroenteritis and chickens get gout. The pictures are
unforgettable—acromegolic beagles and
pseudomaphrodite pigs jostle with a mind-
numbing gallery of zoonoses.

What a shame few readers of the Journal of
Clinical Pathology will ever see it. They
would probably learn far more than veterinary
pathologists browsing through one of the
worthier undergraduate texts on human
pathology—and be better entertained.

JS LILLEYMAN

Oxalate Metabolism in Relation to Urinary
Stone. The Bloomsbury Series in Clinical
Science. Ed. G Alan Rose. (Pp 197; 98 figs;
£48-00). Springer. 1988. ISBN 3-540-19517-
3.

This monograph is the proceedings of a
workshop involving scientists and clinicians
interested in hyperoxaluria and urolithiasis,
edited to blend the contributions into an
easily readable, well illustrated, and nicely
balanced treatise where the strong links
between basic science and clinical medicine
are emphasised. It is a subject which usually
receives only passing reference in standard
textbooks of chemical pathology but this
book reviews new developments in diagnosis
and management.

An accurate measurement of urinary