Book reviews

the question of exactly who the book is being aimed at, a question which is not addressed by the editor/author in the preface.

The longest chapters are those of greatest interest to pathologists and comprise 70 pages by JD Oriel (genitourinary physician) on infective conditions, 74 pages by C Marjorie Ridley (dermatologist) on skin conditions, and three chapters by Professor H Fox and C Hilary Buckley on tumours and tumour-like conditions. There are numerous illustrations and the standard of both clinical photographs and histological sections is very high. In particular, the many colour illustrations of skin conditions that affect this area are to be commended, although occasionally some imagination has to be used to translate the appearances from other skin areas, eg the axilla (Fig 6.18) or the scrotum (Fig 6.28A) to the vulva. The editor should also have detected the fact that the electron micrographs of HPV particles on p71 and p107 are in fact the same photograph in a different orientation, although the original owner has somehow managed not to get the result as well focused as the borrower has.

I would suggest that gynaecologists and gynaecological histopathologists will certainly find this a useful reference book for their shelves. It might also be found useful by STD clinicians and dermatologists.

JULIE CROW

The Basics of Technical Communicat-
ing. B Edward Cain. ACS Professional Reference Book Series. (Pp 198; \$35.95). American Chemical Society. 1988. ISBN 0-8412-1451-4.

This short book is intended to help American chemists become articulate and unambiguous in their day to day professional work. As the preface says, much of what it contains is equally pertinent to other professions including the medical sciences. Simple grammar, letter writing, construction of manuscripts, illustrations, proof reading, writing abstracts, and how to apply for a job are all covered. The author practices what he preaches in that the text is concise, clear, and easy to read.

There is no shortage of books on such topics and it is hard to see that Dr Cain's will find a unique place in medical circles this side of the Atlantic, particularly as some of the advice (construction of resumes [CVs], for example) is parochial. But any attempt to improve the standard of scientific writing is to be applauded.

JS LILLEYMAN

Haematology. Pocket Consultant. BT Colvin, AC Newland. (Pp 371; £11.95.) Blackwells. 1988. ISBN 0 632 01092 4.

The intention of this book is to help non-specialists to investigate and manage patients with haematological disorders. It is described as a pocket consultant, presumably to fit into white coat pockets, and by the nature of such books has to be concise and often dogmatic. Despite these constraints, it provides an accurate account of currently accepted views in haematology.

It differs from similar books in dividing the systemic manifestations, the laboratory investigation, and the practical management into separate sections. The result is that different aspects of a single topic are dealt with in these various sections; this could cause some confusion in the reader, although there is a good index to help overcome this.

The authors have been successful in their intended aim of providing for non-specialists a useful book on haematological practice. Haematologists in specialist training will require more comprehensive texts to assess better the many areas of controversy which still remain in the subject.

DA WINFIELD

Gonococci and Meningococci. Ed JT Poolman, HC Zanan, TF Meyer, JE Heckels, PRH Makela, H Smith, EC Beuvery. (Pp 842; £149.) Martinus Nijhoff. 1988. ISBN 9-0247-3607-2.

This well produced tome is a compendium of all presentations made at the Fifth International Conference on Pathogenic Neisseriae held in Holland in 1986. It deals with epidemiology and vaccination, genetic aspects of antigenic diversity, outer membrane proteins and IgA-protease, lipopolysaccharides, H8 antigen and peptidoglycan and pathogenesis. Each section is preceded by a two page review, and while only Neisseriae have been studied these observations have a relevance for our better understanding of all microbial epidemiology and pathogenicity.

Neisseriae have been intensively studied for the past two decades, so current reports are highly specialised and usually not relevant to the general reader. Possession of this excellent book is essential for all workers actually engaged in any aspect of research on Neisseriae or the diseases they produce. Others involved in vaccine research or in examination of fundamental biology of other bacteria will find sections of great interest and relevance, and will require

repeated easy access to a copy. More general pathologists would do well to read the five short review essays and to remember the existence of the volume (and its four predecessors) for more detailed scrutiny should the need later arise.

AE JEPHCOTT

Botulism. The Organism, Its Toxins, The Disease. 2nd ed. LDS Smith, H Sugiyama. American Lecture Series in Clinical Microbiology. (Pp 171; \$34.75.) Charles C Thomas. 1988. ISBN 0-398-05446-0.

This excellent book is the latest in the series which is edited by Albert Balows, and the authors are well qualified and distinguished authorities on anaerobic bacteria including clostridia. The subtitle *The Organism, Its Toxins, The Disease* sums up the contents which are up to date and includes descriptions of recent work on the structure and actions of botulinum toxins and the recently recognised infant botulism. Four physiological groups of *Clostridium botulinum* are described and their geographical distribution, habitats, isolation, identification and characteristics reviewed. An account of the properties of *C botulinum* spores including their germination, outgrowth, and destruction are well done, and there is a new chapter on botulinum microbiology in foods. The last three chapters on botulism in man, animals, fish, and birds make fascinating reading. The chapter on botulism in man discusses not only the well known food poisoning form but also wound botulism, infant botulism, and a similar disease in adults. Each chapter is followed by a list of references cited in the text and there is an adequate index. Altogether, this high quality and well rounded publication is recommended to anyone who might have an interest in botulism or the organism behind it.

RN PEEL

Biopathology of the Liver. An Ultrastructural Approach. Ed PM Motta. (Pp 194; £70.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1988. ISBN 0-7462-0049-8.

This book on the ultrastructure of the liver is based on a workshop which was organised by the editor in 1986. As the foreword rightly points out, analysis of morphological changes is still the easiest way in which our brain can interpret phenomena and the mechanics that lie behind them. The selection of topics reflects the interests of the contributors. There are chapters on the normal hepatocyte, sinusoidal structure, micro-

vasculature, innervation, blood supply and surgical anatomy of the liver. There are also accounts of scanning electron microscopy, cell maceration, and freeze-fracture techniques. These are all beautifully illustrated by electron micrographs, stereo photographs, and diagrams. Pathology is restricted to a brief survey of common diseases, aspects of experimental carcinogenesis and tumours in teleost, and elasmobranch fishes. The book is aimed at a wide audience and no doubt many will find something of interest to them but it falls short of its comprehensive title and many diseases of the liver are hardly mentioned at all.

PP ANTHONY

Diagnostic Techniques in Medical Parasitology. SL Fleck, AH Moody. (Pp 135; soft cover £15.00.) Butterworths 1988. ISBN 0 7236 0776 1.

This book fills a useful niche for diagnostic methods used in medical parasitology. While there are many textbooks dealing with the morphology of parasites, ova, and cysts, there are few which give detailed instructions on performing the specialised tests in diagnostic parasitology. The book is clearly written, well laid out—tests being indexed according to the body fluid in which the parasites may be found. The colour plates are good quality but some of the black and white prints are slightly “fuzzy”. Where line drawings are used they are clear and relevant, but the book could have been improved by the addition of more diagrams referring to some of the techniques.

The size of the publication makes it a useful handbook and I would recommend it to both laboratory technical staff and those involved in research in the field of medical parasitology.

JW BAILEY

Diagnosis and Pathology of Endocrine Diseases. G Mendelsohn. (Pp 734; £65.) Harper & Row Ltd. 1988. ISBN 0 397 50731 3.

Most pathologists in the United Kingdom practise their specialty on a multidisciplinary basis. It is therefore refreshing to encounter a textbook incorporating a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of endocrine disease. The book has 28 contributors and is generally arranged so that the chemical pathology of the organ secretions is presented before the separate chapter on histopathological appearances.

Although the book widens the horizons of

the unidisciplinary reader, it is difficult to predict that it will become a “best seller”, for most United Kingdom pathologists will refer to books within their own specialty. Included are additional chapters on radiological techniques in the evaluation of various endocrine glands which, although of interest, are usually outside the province of the practising pathologist.

The book will prove useful in those countries maintaining a generalist approach to pathology but will be of rather more limited interest to pathologists in the United Kingdom.

GW PENNINGTON

Rheumatoid Arthritis. An Illustrated Guide to Pathology, Diagnosis, and Management. HR Schumacher, EP Gall. (Hardback £35.00.) Gower Medical Publishing. 1988. ISBN 0 397 44653 5.

This is a beautifully produced monograph on rheumatoid arthritis. I found it a pleasure to read. The clinical photographs and the pictures of radiographs and laboratory investigations are among the best I have ever seen, and the accompanying text is of the highest standard. The book concentrates on one disease—rheumatoid arthritis. It gives a brief outline of its general features and associated laboratory, radiological, and pathological findings. It gives a detailed resumé of changes in individual joints and finishes with chapters on systemic features, complications, and management. It is principally an American book and there are contributions from workers at two centres in Philadelphia, and Tucson, Arizona. The presentation of clinical material in illustrated monographs has improved considerably in recent years and this book is at the very forefront of this drive towards excellence. It seems incidious to offer any critical comment at all. Two things concerned me. The chapters on laboratory findings and treatment are both rather brief for a book of this size and somewhat weak. Combined with this is the question of who the book is aimed at. It is rather too detailed for our students, but too simple for the specialist rheumatologist. It is impossible to produce the perfect book and I so much enjoyed reading this one that my comments must be taken as suggestions for improvements in the expected second edition.

DL SCOTT

Granulomas and Neoplasms of the Larynx. I Friedmann, A Ferlito. (Pp 365; £65.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0 443 02528 2.

Professor Friedmann has been involved with

two of the numerous good textbooks in laryngeal pathology which have been published in recent years. This book is an expansion of the laryngeal component of *Systemic Pathology, 3rd Ed, Vol 1, Nose Throat and Ears*, which he edited. A large number of the illustrations are taken directly from *Systemic Pathology*, and the expanded format has resulted in a more valuable treatise.

The title underestimates the broad spectrum of subject matter covered in the book. There are chapters describing anatomy, embryology, and developmental malformations. Non-granulomatous inflammatory conditions are described in detail. There is also a full description of non-neoplastic “tumours” including cysts and amyloid. Indeed, this is a comprehensive textbook on the pathology of the larynx and tumours of the larynx, but both these titles have already been used by other authors.

The book is well illustrated with diagrams, photographs, photomicrographs and electronmicrographs, and the spread and staging of tumours is clearly described. One notable omission is the lack of good instruction about the pathological handling of laryngeal specimens.

A pathology department serving an ENT surgeon requires a good textbook on laryngeal pathology. This book fulfils these requirements.

KM GRIGOR

Tumours of the Larynx. Histopathology and Clinical Inferences. E Meyer-Breiting, A Burkhardt. (Pp 221; 106 figs; DM 180.) Springer. 1988. ISBN 3 540 16342 5.

There has been a recent flurry of texts on the pathology of the ear nose and throat, with no fewer than three of these published by Springer. So how does this book differ from its rivals? The authors' intention is to bridge the gap between the surgeon and pathologist with chapters on both diagnosis and treatment of laryngeal cancer. It is a beautifully argued thesis, both richly illustrated and amply referenced. For the pathologist criteria for laryngeal pre-cancer are carefully described and squamous carcinoma is covered in depth. With the exception of radiogenic tumours, however, the other neoplasms of the larynx are given cursory mention, and in this respect the book will never replace a more traditional surgical pathology text. As a detailed account of squamous carcinoma it is unrivalled, but will have limited appeal outside specialist centres.

AJ NORTON