

biopsy in some types of neurodegenerative disease. Indeed it is frequently observed that brain biopsies are less common in routine neuropathology than in the past.

When it comes to "Tissue Culture in the Diagnosis of Brain Tumours" we are given an attractively presented account of the methods and results of tissue culture. While the interest and importance of tissue culture are without question there remains some doubt about its usefulness specifically as a diagnostic tool, as the pressure of clinical decision making calls for increasing reliance on rapid diagnostic techniques. There are other topics in brain tumour diagnosis that might have been of greater value.

In summary it is a book that will be consulted, and one that is worthy of a place in a library concerned with the neurosciences.

RO BARNARD

Atlas of Human Parasitology. 3rd ed. LR Ash, TC Orihel. (Pp 272; \$142.00.) The Raven Press. 1990. ISBN 0 89189 305 9

To use superlatives is always dangerous, particularly in book reviews, but the combination of such a well planned layout with such an excellently produced book makes the use of the word "best" irresistible. If this is not, by any criteria, the best book on human parasites currently available I should be surprised. The text is succinct, the illustrations brilliant in clarity, and the notes about the various creatures' life cycles and nasty little habits comprehensive.

Any histopathology, microbiology, or haematology workers will find the book interesting and helpful, but it is for diagnostic use only. There is nothing about therapy, and the authors have rightly and single-mindedly stuck to their purpose. They see the work as an adjunct to standard reference texts and purely as a tool to aid diagnosis and morphological recognition. As such it has to be a paragon.

JS LILLEYMAN

Progress in Surgical Pathology. Vol XI. Ed CM Fenoglio-Preiser, M Wolff, F Rilke. (Pp 251; DM 180.00.) Springer. 1990. ISBN 3-540-51361-2.

Half the chapters in this multiauthor book are reviews: dysplasia in Barrett's oesophagus; colitis (nothing new to material available in standard textbooks); the pathogenesis of ischaemic bowel (excellent discussion of superoxide radicle formation on reperfusion); anterior mediastinal tumour immunocytochemistry (self-indulgent in text, illustration and references); a dossier of C cells and their tumours (little new), followed by a fairly technical account of their ability to produce other polypeptides.

Other chapters are on very uncommon conditions (dysplasia in colonic schistosomal egg polyps, Wolffian adenomas of ovary, malignant peripheral nerve tumours, and a single testicular tumour report) are better suited to journal format. Immunocytochemistry figures prominently, and curiously eight pages of colour plates are also reproduced in black and white.

This is a book for library rather than workbench but most of its matter is probably already there.

AM MACKAY

Bone Marrow Purging and Processing.

Ed S Cross, AP Gee, DA Worthington-White. *Progress in Clinical and Biological Research.* Vol 333. (Pp 561; \$129.50.) John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1989. ISBN 0-471-56716-7.

This volume documents the proceedings on the second international symposium on bone marrow purging before autologous bone marrow grafting. Most papers concentrate on the increasingly varied means of *in vitro* negative selection of tumour cells from bone marrow, using mainly antibodies or pharmacological agents. One feels that however sophisticated these techniques become, they are unlikely to be completely successful due to tumour cell heterogeneity in immunophenotype or sensitivity, and there is the attendant risk of damage to haemopoietic progenitors which may lead to prolonged cytopenias following marrow infusion. In this respect the section perhaps of greatest interest deals with methods to select haemopoietic progenitors. The initial Seattle experience with CD34 positive stem cell transplants is an indication of the promise of this approach. This book will be of great value to transplant centres as a state of the art review of purging techniques and results.

NH RUSSELL

Urologic Pathology with Clinical and Radiologic Correlations. Ed A Someren (Pp 755; £76.) Maxwell Communications 1990. ISBN 0-241-37502.

For a time there was a dearth of textbooks on urological pathology, then suddenly there appeared to be a glut. Is this new book like the many other recent textbooks on the subject, or is it sufficiently different to warrant specific recommendation?

Someren's book is primarily for pathologists but the emphasis is very much on the clinical aspects of disease processes. The multidisciplinary approach stresses the importance of clinical and radiological findings in reaching a pathological diagnosis and clearly demonstrates the role of the pathologist in the clinical team. It is well illustrated with clinical, radiological, and pathological pictures and gives the pathologist a clear understanding of clinical features. It clearly describes how to handle pathological specimens.

The book has 28 contributors and seven chapters dealing with the kidney, urinary tract and bladder, renal transplantation, prostate and seminal vesicles, testis, penis and scrotum, and adrenal glands. It is well written and readable throughout, and the numerous photographs and diagrams are useful. In spite of the fact that the authors had difficulty in spelling my own name, I recommend this book as being valuable to pathologists, clinicians, and radiologists with a special interest in urology.

KM GRIGOR

Oral Candidosis. Ed LP Samaranyake, T Wallace MacFarlane. (Pp 265; £60.) Butterworths. 1990. ISBN 0 7236 0983 7

This new book contains chapters contributed by 16 authors from nine countries. Topics include the biology, ecology and epidemiology, and virulence factors of *Candida*; host factors, immunology, clinical classification, acute and AIDS-related oral candidiasis; denture stomatitis and angular cheilitis, leucoplakia, chronic multifocal candidosis and median rhomboid glossitis,

chronic mucocutaneous candidosis; and laboratory diagnosis and antifungal agents. The text is well illustrated, including 24 colour high quality photographs, and some 1500 references to published work.

Anticipated readership includes post-graduate dental and medical practitioners, oral and medical microbiologists, and undergraduates. Those with a special interest in oral candidosis will find this book a valuable addition to their bookshelves.

Two major reference books are already available on *Candida* and candidosis, and it is legitimate to question if another is justified. On the evidence presented—yes. As the editors point out, there has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of papers dealing with oral candidosis. This new text provides a rich source of information on this important topic, and brings together information which is presently scattered throughout medical publications.

DWR MACKENZIE

Clinical Immunohematology: Basic Concepts and Clinical Applications. Wendell F Rosse. (Pp 677; \$95.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1990. ISBN 0-86542-038-6.

This book presents its subject matter in two parts—about half to basic immunohaematology and half to clinical immunohaematology. The first part provides a readable and well illustrated account of antigens, antibodies and their interaction, and includes a long chapter dealing with complement and its dependent mechanisms, with nearly 500 references. In the clinical part of the book the emphasis appears in places to be on the pathogenesis of disease more than on therapeutic detail. For example, the cited figure of up to 40% mortality following fetal transfusion does not reflect current achievements. The text is also misleading in defining the dose of anti-D immunoglobulin which will clear fetal cells following transplacental haemorrhage.

With the exception of the two chapters dealing with HLA and paternity testing contributed by Dr Emily Reisler (one might have expected reference in the latter to the use of DNA probes), the book has been written by Professor Rosse. In the preface he argues that the unity given by a single viewpoint is worth both the effort and the lack of detailed knowledge in some areas. I think that he has succeeded in the task which he set himself and provided a useful addition to the haematologist's bookshelf.

D LEE

Diagnostic Function Tests in Chemical Pathology. PT Lascelles, D Donaldson. (Pp 217; £30.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1990. ISBN 0-7462-0108-0.

This book comprises details of some 80 dynamic function tests. For each, the principle of the test is given, together with indications for its use and the protocol. The normal response is described and guidance provided on the interpretation of results.

A book of this sort is potentially useful. With the passage of time, laboratories often evolve their own protocols for tests of this sort without necessarily validating them. Unfortunately, few original references are provided and there are no indications as to whether the accounts of tests incorporate any modifications to original descriptions. The authors indicate in their preface that several of the

tests described are "rather older ones," but some are downright obsolete and the reasons for their inclusion are not clear.

It is also disappointing that the guides to interpretation of the tests are mainly qualitative. Details of performance, such as specificity, sensitivity, or predictive value, have not been included. Not only must tests be done properly; it is equally as important that the right test is done, for example, three tests of exocrine pancreatic function are described but there are no details of their relative or absolute performance in diagnosing chronic pancreatic insufficiency. £30.00 is a high price to pay for a book which adds little to existing publications.

WJ MARSHALL

The Microbiological Hazards of Occupations. CH Collins, JM Grange. Occupational Hygiene Monograph No 17. (Pp 38; paperback 16.). Science Reviews Ltd. 1990. ISBN 0-905927-23-0.

According to the publisher's insert note, this handy size book is based on a course at the Robens Institute at Surrey University for candidates sitting the examination in the microbiological hazards of occupations, set by the British Examining and Registration Board in Occupational Hygiene. The publishers feel it "will be of great interest to occupational nurses, environmental health staff and others working in or otherwise associated with this field of potential hazard".

The reader progresses logically through micro-organisms and their identification, host defences, sources and routes of infection, job associated infections, microbiological safety, techniques, and monitoring hazards. Chapters on food poisoning, controlled environments, as well as biotechnology (including genetic hazards) and legislation, make this a comprehensive treatment. Within each chapter there is a helpful and systematic approach to topics under subheadings. The line diagram figures are a model of clarity and information.

This admirable little book condenses a large amount of information in an easily assimilable form and faithfully fulfils the title. The authors have identified a need in the market and have successfully provided a valuable book for their intended readership, which will include laboratory workers.

C ROBERTS

Surgical Pathology of Non-Neoplastic Lung Disease. 2nd ed. Major Problems in Pathology. Vol 13. ALA Katzenstein, FB Askin. (Pp 603; £50.) Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Ltd. 1990. ISBN 0-7216-1852-9.

The first edition of this work became an accepted and even essential part of the bench book collection in many diagnostic histopathology laboratories. This edition is 163 pages longer and contains new chapters by Jeffrey Myers on drug induced lung disease on primary lymphoid disorders, and of course the obligatory chapter on AIDS. Elsewhere there has been revision, particularly in the early sections, on acute lung injury and interstitial pneumonia.

There is much essential and useful information here but it often requires careful

searching to find it. Americans are said to prefer large and weighty volumes and this tends to encourage prolixity in much of their medical writing. This book is no exception. Much of the discussion is diffuse and although there are numerous references, including 1500 new ones, there is little or no attempt at critical assessment. Perhaps this is inevitable when the authors are primarily concerned with what a lesion is, rather than with why it has occurred. The publishers cannot escape criticism for the poor quality of some of the illustrations and for a certain eccentricity in their arrangement. Thus the first figures encountered are on plate II and relate to chapters 10 and 12 and these are followed by plate 1 relating to chapters 3, 5, and 8. Many of the black and white photomicrographs are given a whole page when they only occupy half the area thus leaving many blank spaces and adding to the bulk of the book. In spite of these drawbacks this is likely to remain a useful diagnostic text until a more concise and clearly illustrated work appears.

MS DUNNILL

NOTICES

British Society for Dermatopathology

Winter Meeting,
Friday February 8
Postgraduate Medical Centre,
The Royal Surrey County Hospital,
Guildford.

The main theme of the meeting will be "disorders of the pigmentary system". Professor Martin Mihm from Harvard, Rona MacKie, and Stanley Bleehen will talk on "precursor lesions of melanoma", "difficult pigmented lesions in children", and "non-neoplastic pigmentary conditions", respectively.

There will also be a session of free papers and a slide seminar, neither of which will be confined to melanocytic problems.

The registration fee is £50.00.

For further details please contact Dr Martin Cook, Department of Histopathology, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. Telephone number 0483 571122 Extension 4257

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 Orrell, Department of Pathology, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Road, Lancaster. Tel: 0524 65944 X 2701.

Clinical Laboratory Molecular Analysis

February 13-15, 1991

Hyatt Regency Hotel, La Jolla,
California, USA

This, the thirteenth annual conference on clinical laboratory immunochemical and molecular assays, is designed for pathologists, technologists, clinical chemists, microbiologists, and other medical laboratory personnel. Presentations showing the recent research developments in the pathogenesis and aetiology of disease processes, new technology, and future directions in clinical laboratory assays will be offered by a distinguished faculty of renowned scientists. Fee \$375.00.

For further information, contact: Laurie J. Jones, Department of Academic Affairs, Box 400S Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037. Telephone: (619) 554-9592

Methods of Immunologic Research and Diagnosis

An at-the-bench laboratory training program

The Ernest Witebsky Center
for Immunology,
University at Buffalo,
State University of New York
2-14 June 1991.

Daily practical laboratory exercises personally carried out by participants, accompanied by lectures, demonstrations and discussions.

Contact James F Mohn, MD, Director, The Ernest Witebsky Center for Immunology, 234 Sherman Hall, Buffalo, New York 14214. Telephone: 716 831-2848 or 831-2901, FAX: 716 831-3395.

Inquiries should be received by 15 March 1991 to insure consideration for acceptance.

Register of primary immune deficiencies

In line with other European countries, a Register of all patients in the United Kingdom with primary immune deficiencies is being compiled. This is being organised by Dr J Gooi (Immunology Department, Blood Transfusion Service, Bridle Path, Leeds LS15 7TW).

To gain complete coverage we should be grateful if any physicians or general practitioners, who have not already been contacted and who are currently managing such patients, could send details of their patients to Dr Gooi.

Registration forms are available from Dr J Gooi (0532 645091) or Dr H Chapel (0865 817305, Immunology Department, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU).