

amazing variety of specimens and how to interpret the results once the tests had been done. The rest of the book (150 pages) is devoted to systematic bacteriology (and mycology) which is given the authors' idiosyncratic treatment. The style is didactic and at times dogmatic but always carries the conviction that those who have written the text have actually carried out the work. Throughout, there are a relatively small number of well chosen references.

Mature bacteriologists, previously unaware of this book, should make its acquaintance. Young trainees are strongly advised to acquire a copy, not only for use at the bench but also for study as a companion to standard texts.

JD SLEIGH

Recent Advances in Histopathology. No. 14. Ed PP Anthony, RNM MacSween. (Pp 320; 178 illustrations; £22.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1989.

This volume—a snip at the price—is packed with information of value to all histopathologists. It is compulsory reading for examinees (and examiners!) and for seniors who need to keep up. Chapters on DNA technology, cancer viruses, breast screening, and SIDS are outstanding. There is a bias towards hepatology, and sadly the chapter on the cervix does not address the difficulties of categorising minor cervical dysplasia following the colposcopic explosion. A number of illustrations are of questionable quality and value. The aim of gathering current specialised information from a wide range of topics into lucid review form, however, is generally achieved and, save for an occasional unremarkable straight "text-book" chapter and intimidating catalogue-like description of rarities, the usual high standard of the series is maintained. Let us hope number 15 is under way. Unfortunately the white cover is identical with number 13. Haematoxylin and eosin stripes or immunoperoxidase brown would be more appropriate!

LWL HORTON

De Gruchy's Clinical Haematology in Medical Practice. 5th ed. Ed. F Firkin, C Chesterman, D Penington, B Rush. (Pp 524; £39.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1989. ISBN 0-632-02641-3.

Reading "de Gruchy" for the first time in nearly 20 years produces a cosy nostalgic feeling. While there have been many changes, everything looks familiar, and the uncluttered lucidity is as attractive as ever. A point of which one is reminded, though, is that since the first edition in 1958 clinical haematology in the United Kingdom has become almost entirely the province of the pathologist-cum-physician rather than the "pure" physician for whom the text was originally written, so it is important in 1990 to be clear exactly who the target reader is.

MRCPath candidates and other post-graduate trainees in haematology will find they need a more specialised study book, but MRCPath candidates will find the easily read

contents a delight, especially for those who intend to go on later to train in laboratory haematology. For the rest, any non-haematologist wanting a no-fuss dogmatic text about blood diseases will be hard pressed to find a better one, even if some of the half-tones are not up to Blackwell's usual standards.

JS LILLEYMAN

Clinical Haematology. (Mainstream Medicine). DL Barnard, BA McVerry, DR Norfolk. (Pp 269; £17.50.) Heinemann Medical Books. 1989. ISBN 0-433-00068-6.

This new edition in the mainstream medicine series of clinical haematology is a welcome addition to the series. Eminently readable, clear, and didactic it will prove valuable to final year students and those recently graduated. With good clear tables it provides a quick ready reference. Perhaps lacking the clear figures and diagrams of some of its competitors, its approach reflects the practical experience of the authors. A welcome section is the final few chapters, where haematological changes in relation to specific organ disease or conditions are described—for example, liver and pregnancy. Some haematologists may consider that modern contentious areas are not discussed adequately but for the size of the book it covers a wide subject extremely well and has useful further reading suggestions for those of an enquiring disposition.

In summary a book to be recommended which will hold its head well among its competitors, and the audience it is written for (general physicians, paediatricians etc) will find it valuable.

AJ BELLINGHAM

Paediatric Forensic Medicine and Pathology Ed. JK Mason. (Pp 526; £75.) Chapman and Hall Medical. 1989. ISBN 0-442-29160-6.

Professor Mason is a prolific writer and editor of medical texts. He is also a Doctor of Laws (by examination) and a stickler for good English. This latest work maintains his high standards. Too many multiauthor works are good in parts. Others, aimed at the United States market, sink in mid-Atlantic. Thirty seven contributors of international repute have subjected themselves willingly to "an unusual degree of editorial fancy". The result is a wide-ranging text, of consistent high quality, which will be of inestimable value not only to pathologists, but to obstetricians, paediatricians, and many others who have to deal with injured, neglected, and abused children.

Everything is here: practical advice on clinical examination and necropsy techniques, genetics, perioperative death, and the impact of HIV infection. Law and ethics receive masterful (and international) coverage in 200 pages. This is required reading for pathologists, clinicians, and lawyers alike. Well published, well illustrated—and a bargain at £75.00.

MA GREEN

NOTICES

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Department of Continued
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Telephone: (0532) 333233.

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