

paper chromatography are well covered but chemiluminescence and flow injection analysis, for example, are omitted. It would also be possible to read this book without realising the impact of microprocessors on laboratories. A chapter is badly needed on computers and peripherals to cover such topics as the principles of the microprocessor, interfaces, IEEE standards, and so on. As a basic introduction for laboratory staff this book is highly recommended despite its limitations. Whether it is affordable by junior staff is another matter.

J M RATTENBURY

**The use of Synthetic Antigens for Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases.** Report of a WHO Scientific Group. (Pp 74; paperback Sw Fr 9.) Technical Report Series No 784. ISBN 92 4 120784 1.

The WHO Technical Report Series makes available the findings of various international groups of experts on a broad range of topics. This report reviews the present state of synthetic antigens in the serological diagnosis of infectious disease and assesses their relative advantages and limitations compared with natural epitopes. It begins with an account of progress in peptide synthesis and recombinant DNA technology for production of antigens and procedures for identification of antigenic determinants. There follows reports on T cell diagnostic assays, the potential of synthetic reagents in the diagnosis of a variety of virus infections, and of research to improve the diagnosis and monitoring of progress in HIV infections and some bacterial and parasitic diseases. It ends with a few general conclusions and recommendations.

This easily read report is full of facts and relevant observations which will be of most use to researchers in assessing current progress, as a source of ideas, and as an indicator of the direction of future work, but many microbiologists will find it fascinating.

RN PEEL

**Basic and Clinical Concepts of Lung Cancer.** Ed HH Hansen. (Pp 368; £79.95.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1989. ISBN 0-7923-01536.

Published in a series entitled *Cancer Treatment and Research* this book presents 18 chapters on a variety of aspects of lung cancer by an international cast from 12 countries. It is a tribute to the skills of the editor that despite the varying background of the contributors the book is well written and easy to follow. Much of the content is related to treatment and therefore presumably aimed primarily at clinicians, but there are three chapters on pathology and others on the pathobiology of lung tumours which may well be of interest to pathologists.

Mackay (Texas) describes results from techniques such as cytopathology, immunocytochemistry, and electron microscopy, and the implications of the results for the classification of lung tumours. A group from Hong Kong have studied observer variability in the application of the WHO classification and

highlight the problems of comparisons of incidence and treatment among different centres. A Japanese group describe a range of immunohistochemistry results but admit that although these are useful for both routine diagnosis and study of tumour biology they have not yet achieved their aims of distinguishing tumours of high metastatic potential from those of low metastatic potential, and finding markers for responsiveness to treatment. There is also a chapter on oncogenes which includes useful references for those whose basic medical and pathology education occurred in the pre-oncogene era.

A book which aims to relate the current knowledge of the pathobiology of tumours and the current understanding of treatment techniques is obviously laudable. I fear that this text will be too specialised and clinically orientated for the general histopathologist, but it would be useful for those with a special interest in lung pathology and particularly for clinical oncologists in this field.

J CROW

**A Colour Atlas and Textbook of the Histopathology of Mycotic Diseases.** FW Chandler, W Kaplan, L Ajello. (Pp 333; soft cover £29.50.) Wolfe Medical Publications. 1989. ISBN 0 7234 1606 0.

This atlas is a reprint of the highly successful original published in 1980 due, presumably, to continuing demand but it has not been revised nor updated. The text is brief but it is adequate and clear, with useful tables. The references date from the 1960s and 1970s. The chapter on "Immunofluorescence diagnosis—current status" remains what it was 10 years ago. The main attraction of the book is the large number of colour illustrations which depict the organisms themselves and their histopathological setting. These are all of high quality and, as our knowledge of the morphology of fungi has not changed much, they still serve as a useful library of images to refer to. It is a pity, nevertheless, that a second edition of this beautifully produced book has not appeared and the reader in search of recent information on epidemiology, disease patterns, and other aspects such as AIDS has to turn to other works.

PP ANTHONY

**Molecular Biology of Iridoviruses. Developments in Molecular Biology.** Ed G Darai. (Pp 305; £79.95.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1990. ISBN 0-7923-0506-X.

The iridoviruses are the largest of the icosahedral viruses; they infect insects, frogs, fish and pigs. They are just large enough to be visible by light microscopy and to give iridescent colours from the diffraction of light by their crystalline arrays in the transparent corpses of their insect victims. They have a capsid of complex skew symmetry. This book is a series of essays by different authors and shows that these viruses are similar chemically and genetically to each other,

having circularly permuted and terminally redundant genomic DNA, which has in part been sequenced.

Most iridoviruses infect insects, but fish, frogs, and pigs each have one; the tick-borne pig virus causes African swine fever, of great economic importance in many countries, though not in the United Kingdom. It is of special interest because, like the HIV, it does not generate neutralising antibodies, and so there is no effective vaccine. Recent work showing its biochemical resemblances to the pox viruses is well described. The fish virus causes lymphocystis disease, also of importance to fish farmers.

These viruses have not obeyed—yet—the general rule that a virus group found in several different vertebrate species will sooner or later be found in man. Some of them, however, though they do not multiply in those animals, are very toxic to the livers of mice and rats.

This book is rather specialised for the general microbiologist.

TH FLEWETT

**Clinical Dermatopathology. A Text and Colour Atlas.** A Stevens, PR Wheeler, JS Lowe. (Pp 195; £49.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1989. ISBN 0-44-02583-5.

The preface to this text and atlas asserts that, "dermatologists are performing skin biopsies in increasing numbers in quest of an accurate tissue diagnosis as the basis for effective management of skin disease. Unfortunately they do not always get the diagnostic pathology service which they deserve." The authors set out to remedy the problem with an illustrated account of the commoner skin conditions which turn up as biopsy specimens.

In this task they have triumphed. The photographs are in colour, well printed, of very good quality, and are well laid out. The selection of conditions illustrated is reasonably comprehensive and largely represents cases seen in the authors' routine practice. For a pathologist the most useful feature is the inclusion of good clinical photographs to complement the histopathology, so that some appreciation of the clinical appearance of lesions can be gained.

The book can be recommended to any pathologist or dermatologist who is starting on the road towards an acceptable level of dermatopathological literacy. Problems of differential diagnosis will have to be solved elsewhere but as an introduction to or refresher of the subject, it represents good value.

N KIRKHAM

**Organ Transplantation in Children. Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology.** Vol 13. Ed CR Abramowsky, RB Colvin. (Pp 206; 112 figs; £95. Karger. 1989. ISBN 3-8055-5019-7.

This monogram is the latest of the *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology* series and covers pathological and related clinical aspects of

organ transplantation in pediatric practice.

The black and white illustrations are of good quality and references are up to date. There are competent chapters on bone marrow (Bramowsky and Coccia) and renal transplantation (Verani and Conley), a really excellent contribution on liver transplantation by Jaffe and Yunis, as well as a useful review of the consequences of immunosuppressive treatment in transplant rejection by Gilbert-Barness and Barness. The chapter on heart-lung transplantation by Yousem presents pertinent basic data, but this is a new field as far as children are concerned, in which experience is limited and much is yet to be learned.

This book would be primarily of value to pathologists and clinicians in specialist children's hospitals performing organ transplants, but most programmes include a proportion of pediatric patients and many of the problems covered are not confined to any particular age group. The high price for a book of this size, however, would probably confine its attraction to departmental and institutional libraries.

RA RISDON

**Laboratory Quality Management.** GS Cembrowski, RN Carey. (Pp 288; paperback \$50.50.) Raven Press. 1989. ISBN 0-89189-277-X.

This is a very good book. The opening subtitle "QC = QA" signals a logical and mathematical approach, while the foreword by Westgaard exposes the graffiti "Westgaard Rules" as a simplistic incantation. After a good statistical opening the third chapter lists a dozen or more different "Westgaard" rules and the power function method of assessing their value. This is followed by an exposition of various multiple rule strategies and their medical usefulness. The discussion of the value and limitations of analysing patient data is particularly detailed and the need to continue to use control materials is emphasised. The final few words on external proficiency testing and the requirements for accreditation will be increasingly relevant beyond the American target audience.

This is not an easy read; it does not tell you what to do but it does allow you to find your own solution.

IAJ CAVILL

**Progress in Clinical Biochemistry and Medicine.** Vol 8. Ed F Salvatore, A Roda, L Sacchetti. (Pp 196; DM 142.) Springer. 1989. ISBN 3-540-50705-1.

This book brings together contributions from the international satellite symposium on clinical biochemistry in hepatobiliary disease which was held in Bologna, Italy 1988. The nine chapters cover a wide range of subjects and provide useful data for both laboratory scientists and also clinicians working in the field of hepatobiliary disease.

The first chapter by Percy-Robb provides useful information on some of the esoteric biochemical investigations in patients with liver disease. Glutathione-S-transferase and procollagen III peptide may have useful roles in selected clinical situations. Five chapters in the book are devoted to clinical enzymology and provide good reviews on the state of the

art of gamma-glutamyltransferase, alkaline phosphatase, and amylase. There is an excellent chapter by Blanckaert and colleagues on the recent developments in serum bilirubins. This chapter reviews the recent developments both in bilirubins metabolism and the methodology that is available for diagnostic use. There is an extensive chapter by Roda and colleagues on bile acid analysis, which provides an extremely useful update on both methodological and clinical aspects of bile acids and is a must for anyone wishing to update their knowledge on this topic.

Although the book is not a comprehensive book on clinical biochemistry in hepatobiliary diseases, it does provide some useful reviews and updates in certain selected areas, and I would recommend it as a useful edition to the clinical biochemistry library.

ANNE GREEN

**Interpretation of Breast Biopsies.** 2nd ed. Biopsy Interpretation Series. Darryl Carter. (Pp 256; \$81.50.) Raven Press. 1989. ISBN 0-88167-589-X.

This well known textbook on breast biopsy interpretation has been revised in its second edition to include a number of new topics. As well as the discussion of borderline lesions, the book now includes a section on oncogenes which is concise and to the point.

There is a short section on fine needle aspiration and a discussion of techniques of handling breast biopsies, which includes a brief discussion of specimen radiography of occult lesions. The text of the previous edition has been brought up to date and revised and there are numerous photomicrographs which are generally of good quality. As this is a small book the text cannot encompass the whole of breast pathology but it does discuss many of the difficult problems.

The American terminology is, of course, used and some of the English literature appears not to have been included, but these are minor problems and in general the textbook will be of use for histopathologists and others wishing to obtain a better insight into breast pathology.

CA WELLS

**Atlas of Clinical Hematology.** H Begemann, J Rastetter. (Pp 325; 205 colour figs; DM 398.) Springer Verlag. 1989. ISBN 3-540-50851-1.

This is the fourth edition of this text and has been completely revised since the last edition in 1979. The title could be confusing for some as it is an atlas of haematological cytology.

The distinguishing feature of this atlas is the extensive collection of water colour illustrations which show morphological detail with a clarity not found in photomicrographs. They are strongly recommended to those in training and will delight those who enjoy morphology. These are complemented by many photomicrographs. Those portraying immunocytochemical investigations, lymph node and splenic aspirate/imprints, tumour aspirates, and parasitology are excellent. The bone marrow photographs are of more variable quality. A major disappointment is the myelodysplastic syndromes where the few photomicrographs presented do nothing to clarify this difficult area. The illustrations are

supplemented by a methodological text (including immunocytochemistry) and a succinct theoretical text. The American translation of a German text occasionally throws up some unusual terminology. Unfortunately the cytogenetic comment is limited to the Philadelphia chromosome (archaically described as a G-group chromosome, number 21/22 in the Denver classification).

An atlas is consulted for its morphological detail and this is where this book excels. The price may, however, detract from its popularity.

BE WOODCOCK

**Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases.** 3rd ed. GL Mandell, RG Douglas, JE Bennett. (Pp 2340; illustrated; £135.00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1990. ISBN 0-443-08710-5.

The first edition of this book was published 10 years ago and rapidly became established as a major source text for infectious disease specialists. The second edition (1985) was widely acclaimed as being even better than the first. This third edition demands further superlatives. The text has been expanded by over 650 pages, and 19 chapters have been added including seven chapters on the aetiology and management of AIDS. Other notable additions are chapters on mechanisms of resistance,  $\beta$ -lactam allergy, the quinolones, interferons, and TWAR. The organisation of the virology section has been extensively revised in the light of changes in nomenclature, resulting in an additional four chapters. The book retains its original four sections, covering basic principles, clinical syndromes, infectious diseases and their aetiological agents, and special problems. All chapters have been revised, and references as recent as 1988 are included.

This book represents the results of a mammoth on-going undertaking. The text is informative and authoritative; although differences in philosophy and practice between the United States and the United Kingdom need to be borne in mind. It is a library must for all infectious disease and clinical microbiology units.

GL RIDGWAY

**Pathology of Late Fetal Stillbirth.** MJ Becker, AE Becker. (Pp 150; £35.) Churchill Livingstone. 1989. ISBN 0-443-01941-X.

Intended as a practical guide to examination of both fetus and placenta from intrauterine deaths occurring in the second half of pregnancy, it comprises sections covering placental examination, fetal necropsy, fetal development, pathological abnormalities related to mode of death, correlation of fetal and placental abnormalities, dysmaturity, and causes of intrauterine death. The strength of this book lies in its illustrations which are of very high quality. Placental abnormalities and necropsy technique are particularly lavishly illustrated. Observations related to rapidity of fetal demise will be new to many pathologists and are useful in terms of clinicopathological correlation.

There are, however, several serious drawbacks. The second half of pregnancy has been arbitrarily divided into three unequal periods: immature, premature, and mature.