

cytotechnicians, and clinicians as both a reference text and bench book.

PI RICHMAN

**Microbiology in Clinical Practice.** 2nd ed. DC Shanson. (Pp 657; soft cover £19.50.) Butterworths. ISBN 0-7236-1403-2.

This excellent book lives up to its title, and the publication of a revised second edition, seven years after the first, is to be welcomed. It does not deal with systematics in any detail and the reader is required to be familiar with the basic properties of bacteria and viruses, including their classification.

The attractive layout is based on diseases and disease syndromes and, as a result, the various causes of infection, at a particular site, or which are responsible for a symptom complex, are considered together. Emphasis is placed on differential diagnosis and the appropriate microbiological examinations are detailed and explained. Tables and figures are used judiciously to strengthen the text and there are a number of black and white photographs.

Inevitably, there is some unevenness of quality: the section on chest infections is particularly good, whereas the discussion on *Escherichia coli* and diarrhoeal disease is fragmented and superficial. Throughout, antimicrobial chemotherapy is considered in detail and the reasons for advocating particular treatments are debated and explained.

The book is intended for senior medical students as well as junior hospital doctors but undergraduates may well find this informative, substantial text a heavy read.

JD SLEIGH

**Bone Tumors.** Vol. 2. Clinical, Radiologic, and Pathologic Correlations. Joseph M Mirra. (Pp 1831; 1,000 illustrations; £177.41.) Lea & Febiger. 1989. ISBN 0-8121-1156-7.

This is a very large book (5.94 kg) published in two volumes with 1800 pages of text and over 1000 illustrations. Professor Mirra and his colleagues have obviously laboured mightily and produced a mammoth compilation of knowledge—clinical, radiological and pathological. They attempt the necessary synthesis of these aspects of the problems of bone tumours and are generally successful. I was greatly impressed by the comprehensive nature of their coverage. There were a number of very interesting features such as a large number of colour photographs and a terminal chapter called "Quiz and Correlation" using cases from the AFIP collection of bone tumours (reputedly the largest in the world). Given the size and cost of this publication it is unlikely that every histopathologist will wish to own a copy. The proper niche for this book is in departmental collections at the reporting bench. This leads inexorably to my major criticism and that is the uneven quality of many of the illustrations. In particular, there are problems with photomicrographs. Some are frankly out of focus, some show uneven illumination, and in many it is impossible to distinguish nuclei and surrounding cyto-

plasm. These deficiencies subtract substantially from the value of this book, and I hope that they will be addressed in future editions.

J McCLURE

**ELISA in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory.** Ed TG Wreghitt, P Morgan-Capner. (Pp 305; £20.) Public Health Laboratory Service. Cash with order from the Treasurer to the Board, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5DF. 1990. ISBN 0 901144 24 X.

This is a fascinating and valuable book, with contributions from several experts in the subject. Three general introductory chapters are followed by 16 on the use of ELISA, in different diagnostic fields, and there is a final chapter on enzyme amplification. Each chapter contains technical details of the methods available for the particular purpose with an assessment of their advantages and disadvantages, and their usefulness in comparison with older serological methods; there are also helpful comments on the interpretation of results.

The book is clearly written and illustrated, contains numerous references, and has been well edited. It can be recommended as an informative and realistic assessment of the state of the art in this rapidly developing field, and will be of interest both to those microbiologists who wish to carry out the techniques themselves and to those who merely seek a clearer understanding of the subject in general.

DM HARRIS

**Tumors of the Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Ducts.** Atlas of Tumor Pathology. 2nd series. Fascicle 26. JR Craig, RL Peters, HA Edmondson. (Pp 280; soft cover—US\$22.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1990. ISSN 0160-6344.

I used this newly arrived 26th Fascicle of the second series from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology to help me with a difficult tumour diagnosis; I found the book easy to use, convenient, and helpful. The layout is better than that in the first series, but many good features remain. Notable are the very high quality of the illustrations, the good print, and the clear subheadings for each tumour (typically, definition, incidence, clinical features, pathogenesis, gross features, microscopic features, differential diagnosis and prognosis). The references extend to the late 1980s and by no means ignore the European literature (an accusation often levelled at American books). Differences between American and British usage are relatively minor, but it was surprising to find no mention of the use of reticulin preparations in distinguishing cirrhotic nodules and hepatocellular adenomas from hepatocellular carcinomas. This remarkably low priced guide to diagnosis will have a welcome place on my bookshelf and will be much used.

PJ SCHEUER

**Colon Cancer Cells.** Ed Mary P Moyer, George H Poste. Cell Biology: A Series of Monographs. (Pp 554; \$175.) Academic Press Inc. 1990. ISBN 0-12-509375-6.

This book will not be everyone's cup of tea. I must confess to some misgivings on receiving the book but these were largely unfounded. The title is the latest in a series of "Cell Biology" monographs produced in the USA by Academic Press. It contains 21 chapters covering pathological, experimental, and cytogenetic aspects of colorectal carcinogenesis. There is much in the book of clinical relevance and those with a particular interest in gastrointestinal pathology will find many of the chapters useful. There are inevitable idiosyncrasies; for example, in Shamsuddin's chapter, out of the 42 references, 19 are to himself and his rebuttal of the term adenoma is confusing. A chapter by one of the editors fails accurately to identify the Dukes classification. There is much overlap in the chapters on cell lines and to many these will make for dreary reading. In a book of this size with multiple authors it is not surprising that many chapters do not contain up to date references. Those with an interest in colorectal cancer will, however, find the book a source of useful reference. As for the general pathology department, I do not believe that this title will be of sufficient interest to justify its purchase at \$175.

NA SHEPHERD

**Gastrointestinal and Oesophageal Pathology.** Ed R Whitehead. (Pp 960; 729 illustrations; £125.) Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-3589-X.

The two most notable features of this book are its multiple authorship (no less than 62 authors) and its organisation into sections based on normal structure and function and general pathological processes rather than primarily on a topographic basis. Thus there is a 219 page opening section with chapters on normal morphology, histochemistry, epithelial kinetics, lymphoid tissue, and the immune system and microflora by authorities in the fields. These are a valuable source of up to date information, not otherwise readily available in one place. Particularly noteworthy is a 43 page chapter on the vasculature and lymphatic drainage.

The rest of the book is less successful and suffers from splitting and reduplication of topics which inevitably result from the self-imposed handicap of having to adhere to the disease-based organisation. There is a key section of 184 pages on "primary inflammatory disorders and disturbances of digestive function", encompassing pathology from the oesophagus to the anus in multiple, often short, chapters. Most topics are adequately covered, apart from ileal pouch pathology which seems to have been missed. Colonic tuberculosis also gets rather scant attention.

The method of organisation is least satisfactory in the 176 page section on tumours. By making the reasonably good index over time, it is possible to locate the information required, but casualties to the rigid splitting are the dysplasias of various epithelia, which, although included either