of Disease" heading during the recent past. They seem to be the same as the version published in the journal except that the journal date is not given on the first page of each article. This omission is mildly annoying because the value of a review is partly dependent on when it was written.

Laboratory Investigation is published by the American and Canadian Branch of the International Academy of Pathology and contains articles of high quality with a strong bias towards basic science in disease. These reviews reflect this emphasis on basic pathological processes. They are arranged in three groups: cell and metabolic disorders; inflammation and immunity; and tumour biology. Most are of 10 to 12 pages in length, and examples of subjects are "Mechanism of mineral formation in bone," "Goodpasture's syndrome: molecular architecture and functions of basement membrane antigen", and "Molecular mechanisms on oncogenesis".

Few of the articles have a direct message for the practice of diagnostic pathology (Martin J Cline's review of molecular diagnosis of human cancer being an exception), but all say valuable things about the interface of biology and disease.

These are not superficial journalistic reviews but are pitched at a level which takes the pathologist to the problems of research. They are not light reading unless you are well versed in the subject. If you've already xeroxed the articles and can still find them in your filing system, you will not need this book. If you've missed them and would like to be put in touch with some growing points in research in general pathology it's a good buy.

DR DAVIES

Endocrine Pathology Update. Vol 1. Ed J Lechago, T Kameya. (Pp 316; £60.) John Wiley. 1990. ISBN 0-938607-18-9.

This first volume of a proposed biennial series on recent advances in endocrine pathology covers methodology, areas of general diagnostic interest, and more specialised topics. The 14 chapters include discussions of in situ hybridisation, pre-embedding immunocytochemistry, and the application of region specific antibodies to prohormones and active peptides in the study of neuroendocrine tumours. There are useful chapters on the uses and limitations of general neuroendocrine markers, in particular the discussion on the chromogranins. There is some duplication in the area of lung neuroendocrine cells and tumours, but useful general information is included. The carcinoma/carcinoid spectrum is dealt with succinctly and the outline of peptide immunoreactivity of carcinoids in various sites has potential diagnostic relevance. Thymic endocrine tumours are also discussed.

The histological diagnosis of potentially aggressive or malignant tumours is one of the most difficult areas in endocrine pathology. The chapters on pheochromocytoma and medullary carcinoma of thyroid fail to convince me that the problem has been solved. Of rather more specialist interest are the detailed chapters on null cell adenomas of the pituitary gland and on the effects of bromocriptine on prolactin-secreting adenomas.

Textbooks on recent advances are somewhat ephemeral and are perhaps more suited to a paperback format. In its present form this is, I feel, a book which might be purchased by the specialist endocrine pathologist or by libraries in hospitals with a major endocrine interest. Others would more appropriately rely on the interlibrary loans system to glean the information of more general diagnostic interest. Whether the field of endocrine pathology is wide enough to sustain the proposed series remains to be seen.

AM MCNICOL

Pathological Correlation after Cardiac Surgery. Sally P Allwork. (Pp 125; £40.) Butterworth-Heinemann. 1991. ISBN 0-7506-1248-7.

This book describes the morphological changes which can be expected after cardiac surgery. It is authoritative and comprehensive, reflecting the author's many years of experience in the field. It will be of value to those carrying out necropsies on persons who have undergone cardiac surgery recently or sometime ago. It is therefore of most relevance to those who provide this service to cardiac surgical units. The section on congenital heart disease, however, is a good and well referenced summary of the subject in its own right. General histopathologists having to carry out occasional necropsies on those who have undergone cardiac surgery would certainly find this book of great value, though perhaps fortunately, for many, these will usually be few and far between.

My only criticism of the book is in relation to the examination technique described for the heart which does not refer to any methodology using the standard echo planes for sectioning the heart. Transverse slicing of the ventricles permits direct comparison with an echocardiogram, gives a good exposure of the myocardium, and the result is generally easier for clinicians to understand. This latter point is important when considering the role of the necropsy in clinical audit.

NATHANIEL CARY

NOTICES

Workshop on Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology and Breast Pathology

26-27 February 1992

Department of Pathology,
Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast,
Northern Ireland

The guest speakers will include:

Dr J L Peterse, Department of Pathology/Cytology, The Netherlands Cancer Institute; Dr J P Sloane, Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey; Dr A O'Doherty, Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme.

This Workshop will coincide with the first Patrick Watt Memorial Lecture, to be given by Dr J P Sloane.

Further details can be obtained from Dr L Caughley, Department of Cytopathology, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast BT12 6BA. Telephone: Belfast (0232) 240503 Ext 2513.

SANDS Conference

4 February 1992

The management and disposal of pre 28 week pregnancy loss
Royal Society of Medicine, London

In June this year, Duncan Nichol, Chief Executive of the NHS, asked managers to review their disposal arrangements, and to introduce revised procedures where necessary. This conference will be invaluable to staff carrying out this review. It will discuss the issues, and hear examples from hospitals around the country, of how to develop good practice and implement change.

Fee: £125. Early booking advised.

Details from Lesley Corner, Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE.
Telephone: 071 436 7940.

Diagnostic Medical Mycology

A one week lecture and practical course on the laboratory diagnosis of fungal infections is to be held in Leeds, starting 30 March 1992. This established course is intended for MLSOs and medical graduates working in diagnostic laboratories, and is organised by the British Society for Mycopathology.

Further details may be obtained from Dr E G V Evans, Regional Mycology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

2nd International Symposium on Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Ischaemic Stroke

1-2 May, 1992

San Diego Marriott-La Jolla,
La Jolla, California, USA

This symposium will have a similar format to the original seminar, which was held in Heidelberg, Germany. Set presentations, free communications, and panel discussions will examine current data and issues relevant to the study of fibrinolytic agents in acute ischaemic stroke, as well as the potential role of ancillary approaches in acute stroke. A distinguished international faculty has been assembled for the programme.

For further information contact: Department of Academic Affairs, Box 403C, Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037. (619) 554-8556.

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRCPATH who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact The General Secretary, School of Biological Sciences, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QC. Tel and Fax: 0273 678435.