

edition, and it is much improved. The chapter headings have been changed and the concepts underlying classification have changed. The stated aim of the text is to provide "a guide to the interpretation of renal biopsies" and it does this by means of text, diagrams, and black and white photographs of light microscopy, immunohistology and electron microscopy. In general it gives a straight account of the changes seen in a particular condition, such as hypertension, rather than giving guidance on how to answer a diagnostic problem—for example, are these changes due to hypertension alone or is there an underlying glomerulonephritis? It gives reference to "selected readings" rather than to detailed documentation of the points made. The text has some high spots—for example, the chapter on renal diseases associated with lymphoplasmacytic disorders could scarcely be bettered in its 27 pages. It is a pity that the problems of renal transplantation are dealt with inadequately in 11 pages. Whether you are a tyro or experienced in renal histopathology this is not the "best buy", but it has enough virtues to make it a useful addition to the departmental library.

DR DAVIES

Risk and Prevention of Arterial Lipidoses. Peter Schwandt. (Pp 183; soft cover £17.75.) Published by Warren H Green (USA) and distributed by Gazelle Book Services (Lancaster). ISBN 0-87527-232-0.

This is a strange book which, on first looking through it, I wondered whether it even ought to have a review as the bibliography has no reference in it after 1981, although there is a recommended reading list including articles up to 1984. In the preface this situation is accounted for "due to technical reasons", but suggests that the monograph "is a very valuable collection and evaluation of the most important facts in the 'lipid field' up to that time." Peter Schwandt is not the sole author—there are contributions from P Weisweiler, P Janetschek, and WO Richter.

Topics covered include atherogenesis and its effects, risk factors, metabolism of lipoproteins and diagnosis of their disorders, diet, physical exercise and treatment. I have to admit, when I studied its contents again a little later I changed my opinion. I found much of the early work clearly presented, interesting and informative, and well referenced. I hope that this monograph will not only be purchased by libraries but also by all those interested in the "arterial lipidoses".

B S† AVIN

Molecular Biology and Differentiation of Megakaryocytes. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 356. Ed J Breton-Gorius, J Levin, AT Nurden, N Williams. (Pp 371; \$98.) John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1990. ISBN 0-471-56822-8.

This is volume 356 in the series *Progress in Clinical and Biological Research*. It is based on the proceedings of the Third International Conference on Megakaryocytes which was

held in Dijon in July 1989. The work is edited by recognised experts in the field of megakaryocyte and platelet biochemistry and physiology.

Recent years have seen considerable advances in our knowledge of the physiology of platelet production, aided by the development of techniques for the isolation of megakaryocytes from bone marrow, the establishment of megakaryoblastic cell lines, and the cloning of growth factors. This, together with the increasing realisation of the central role of platelets in arterial occlusive disease, have led to considerable expansion in research related to megakaryocyte and platelet production. This volume thus serves as a timely review of contemporary theories and observations on the maturation, regulation, and pathology of megakaryocytes. It is, of course, primarily a book for the specialist researcher, and in this context can be recommended as an invaluable reference source, but it also contains much of relevance to the pathologist with a broad interest in the pathogenesis of bleeding and thrombotic disorders.

M GREAVES

Ocular Histopathology. A Guide to Differential Diagnosis. CE Margo, HE Grossniklaus. (Pp 340; £54.) WB Saunders Company. 1991. ISBN 0-7216-3291-2.

This book is a series of 53 cases presented initially as macro- and microscopic descriptions illustrated with black and white photographs. We are then given a "pivot" diagnosis, followed by a list of differential diagnoses, and an illustrated discussion. Only after this is the clinical history given and the chapter closes with a "denouement" and a small further discussion and list of pertinent references. This idiosyncratic arrangement with the concentration on unprejudiced, supposedly objective assessment of the material, before exposure to the bald clinical facts, leads in most cases to a rational pivot diagnosis but occasionally, is analogous to composing "wrong" answers to multiple choice questions; the alternatives are a little implausible.

The authors address themselves to most of the range of fashionable problems in this subspeciality. The chapters on conjunctival melanocytic lesions are particularly clear. Examples of systemic pneumocystis and Kaposi's sarcoma are included in AIDS related phenomena as is the diagnosis of necrotising retinitis. Most of the references are recent but some are unnecessarily parochial referring to ophthalmological bibliography, but elsewhere the authors have quoted from mainstream pathology and medical journals. Grouses? Two: I did not know what the torcular Hexophili was and had to go and look it up; and in the introduction the authors refer to a "heuristic void," something which seems to be a philosophical impossibility.

I recommend the book and think that the authors have produced a convincing diagnostic algorithm in most instances. The non-specialist would also enjoy it, gaining in confidence by realising that this is not an isolated or impenetrable field of histopathology.

ACE McCARTNEY

NOTICES

Tenth Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition of the Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine

August 10–16, 1991

San Francisco, California, USA.

For more information, contact SMRM, 1918 University Avenue, Suite 3C, Berkeley, CA 94704 USA. Telephone: (415) 841-1899. Fax: (415) 841-2340.

First World Congress of Cellular and Molecular Biology

1–7 September 1991

Paris–Versailles, Palais des Congres

This meeting will include about 40 symposia concerning the most promising themes in the field of cellular and molecular biology. All information about the programme, registration, fees, and deadlines for abstracts, will be given on request by letter, phone, or fax:

Mrs Leila Orbecchi, Director
C.E.R.T.

63, Avenue Parmentier
75 011 PARIS—France

Tel.: (1) 48 07 07 00
Fax: (1) 48 07 22 11

Prize Biochemical Analysis 1992

The German Society for Clinical Chemistry awards the prize Biochemical Analysis every two years at the conference "Biochemische Analytik" in Munich.

The prize of DM50 000 is donated by Boehringer Mannheim GmbH for outstanding and novel work in the field of biochemical analysis or biochemical instrumentation or for significant contributions to the advancement in experimental biology especially relating to clinical biochemistry.

Competitors for the prize 1992 (conference "Biochemische Analytik", May 5–May 8 1992) should submit papers concerning one theme, either published or accepted for publication, between 1 October 1989 and 30 September 1991, before 15 October 1991, to:

Professor Dr H Feldmann, Secretary of the prize Biochemical Analysis; Institut für Physiologische Chemie der Universität, Goethestraße 33, D-8000 München 2.

If several authors are involved in this work, please indicate the name(s) of the candidate(s).

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.