

authorship and publishers. The 16 chapters have all been written to a high standard, some better than others but the authors have all done the best of what was undoubtedly a difficult task.

Drs Skalli and Gabbiani's chapter 5 on the biology of the myofibroblast made interesting reading, particularly because I have not seen it so extensively discussed elsewhere. Chapters 12, 13, and 14 on progress in benign, pseudosarcomatous and borderline and malignant soft tissue tumours, pointed out several new entities, the difficulties in their diagnosis, and with good illustrations, clues to their recognition. Chapter 15 on current trends in the treatment of soft tissue tumours helped to concentrate my mind on the outcome or the consequences of misdiagnosis.

Drs Bayley and Lucas deserve mention for their extensive analysis of the enigmatic disease Kaposi's sarcoma which enjoys prominence in the book; their conclusion, however, appears rather hasty. Several counterarguments can be put across in support of the currently held view that Kaposi's sarcoma is a malignant disease. I have no doubt that the argument will continue but to attempt to change the name to Kaposi's disease is premature.

Another area of contention is the continued broadening of the entity epithelioid haemangioma to include angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia (ALHE). That ALHE is a vascular tumour is only a supposition. The combination of eosinophils, lymphocytes, and endothelial proliferation, irrespective of morphology, can all be explained on the basis of immune dysfunction. The role of dermal dendritic cells as antigen presenting cells and various subgroups of lymphokines including the eosinophil chemotactic factor IL5 will need to be properly investigated. There have been fewer names that aptly describe an entity better than ALHE. As to the association with Kimura's disease there are still unanswered questions and I will not close the door just yet; it took a very long time to establish the link between endomyocardial fibrosis and Loeffler's endocarditis.

Pathologists, surgeons, and oncologists will all benefit enormously from reading this book. For me it provided essential knowledge for the better understanding of the difficult subject of soft tissue tumours. It is highly recommended.

AB AKOSA

**The Customer Oriented Laboratory.** WO Umiker. (Pp 190; £44.00.) Published by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. 1991. ISBN 0-89189-3410-5.

There could hardly be a more appropriate time for such a title to appear on the United Kingdom book market. As NHS pathology departments struggle to cope with the dual culture shock of audit and cost effectiveness, many laboratories are indeed having to become more "customer oriented". So does this book help? The answer is probably yes. Provided the distinctly transatlantic style can be enjoyed, accommodated, or ignored, what Dr Umiker has to offer is a lot of sound advice on all aspects of pathology management. And in an amusing and readable way. I love the little lists—such as "invalid excuses for not getting feedback" or "great phrases to use

when dealing with complaints". Different types of difficult customers are neatly categorised and we can all recognise the steamroller (Dr Furious, a surgeon).

Like many management texts, what is contained is mostly applied common sense, but in this case distilled in such a way that is though provoking. Readers will learn how to implement change, how to evaluate the service, how to recruit, train, and retain personnel, how to use EPGs (employee participating groups), and how to approach budgeting and cost containment. And, yes, of course, how to sell the service.

Despite the contents being pitched at the North American market, there is a basic international timelessness about service organisation and personnel management, and the quote from Henry Ford on page one sets the scene: "It's not the employer who pays wages. He only handles the money. It's the customer who pays the wages".

So, buy the book and you may be on the road to the Japanese system of *Kaizen*; the "theory of continuous improvement". Imagine the effect of that on your anticoagulant clinic.

JS LILLEYMAN

**Transplantation Pathology—Hepatic Morphogenesis.** Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology. Vol 14. Ed CR Abramowsky. J Bernstein, H Rosenberg. (Pp 220; 89 figs; £120.) S Karger. 1991. ISBN 3-8055-5156-8.

This volume includes a rather curious mixture of subjects. About half the book comprises three chapters devoted to the biliary tree and liver in childhood and to the developmental pathology of the bile ducts. About another quarter consists of two chapters in which the basic pathology and immunology of transplantation are reviewed. The remaining two chapters are devoted to cardiac transplantation in children and to pancreatic transplantation for the treatment of diabetes. While these chapters provide a useful summary of some of the problems in these areas, much of the information is available elsewhere, and the chapter on cardiac transplantation does not include the standardised nomenclature proposed by the heart rejection study group of the International Society for Heart Transplantation.

The quality of production is excellent. The print is clear with few typographical errors and in general the photomicrographs are good. This volume will be of some interest to paediatric pathologists, but its high price and unusual juxtaposition of subjects suggest that, while it may be a suitable volume to have in the hospital library, few pathology departments will feel justified in buying it.

A KENNEDY

**Practical Histochemistry.** Chayen J, Bitensky L. (Pp 321; price £45.) John Wiley & Sons. 1991. ISBN 0-47192-93-1.

There are several text books on practical histochemistry; some have defined their audience, while others, including this second

edition, are not sure who is the target. Most of these "practical" books are reasonably strong on the theory and give, for the most part, sound methods. However, although they are entitled "practical", there is rarely any useful comment on application. This second edition is no exception.

On reading through the book I had a giggling sense of *déjà vu*, and when I compared the current text with that of the first 1973 edition, all was made clear. There is very little change, apart from a paragraph here and there, and the bulk of the text and diagrams is identical with the 1973 edition. This accounts for the general feeling that it seems about 20 years out of date, and it is in reality almost a first edition reprinted rather than a second edition.

It is unlikely to be found on many laboratory bookshelves.

BD LAKE

**Introduction to Flow Cytometry.** JV Watson. (Pp 443; £50.) Cambridge University Press. 1991. ISBN 0521-38061 8.

This text is written by one of the most reputable of British flow cytometrists. Dr Watson probably has more hours of experience behind him building and adjusting flow cytometers than nearly anyone else in the country. This text sets out to "describe the fundamental principles behind flow cytometry, the basic methods involved, and the results that can be obtained from this important technique". The book does this in 385 pages with 142 pages of references. Roughly half of the book is concerned with the theories of fluid flow, light and optics, electronics, computing and instrument performance, with the second half dealing with nucleic acid analysis, chromosomes, and dynamic cellular applications. The last 40 pages deal with potential applications in oncology.

The style is informal throughout with many line illustrations of flow cytometric data. In many situations the author draws on his own personal experience to illustrate applications.

The technical side of the book deserves little criticism and is a valuable addition to the literature. The methods sections on nucleic acid analysis and chromosomes are also valuable but the book falls down by its omission of a substantial section on immunology. Flow cytometry is an essential part of immunology and most machines are sited in these laboratories.

A further failing was to see only 40 pages on applications. A book written by a senior author in the field can be very valuable in drawing together many workers' papers and identifying common themes. A further chapter on commercial flow cytometers would also have been of interest to people new to the field who may be interested in purchasing instruments.

Does this book succeed in doing what it set out to do? It successfully describes the principles of flow cytometry in great detail and discusses the methods and types of results that can be obtained. This makes the book a useful reference source for the fundamental principles, but is it a necessary purchase for "anyone wishing to start using or already using this technique"? In the rush of new