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 niggling 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

books on flow cytometry which have come on the market in the last few years, there are several I would purchase before this book. However if you are embarking on a PhD in this area then this book would be very valuable.

P QUIRKE

**Manual of Quantitative Pathology in Cancer Diagnosis and Prognosis.** JPA Baak (Pp 616; 192 figures; DM 350.) Springer Verlag. 1991. ISBN 3-540-51275-6.

The first book *A Manual of Morphometry in Diagnostic Pathology*, published in 1983 was found to be very useful by people involved in quantitative pathology. It was a small book, frequently borrowed, but less frequently returned.

This book has the same format and the early part of both books is very similar. The remainder of the book, however, is full of new material, providing the reader with a wealth of information. There is a complete section on techniques and equipment which will be helpful to those lacking such knowledge. Topics described include stereology, cytometry, image cytometry, flow cytometry and laser scanning microscopy. The section on image processing, although welcome, may appear too involved for those lacking specific knowledge.

The section on applications is much more comprehensive than before and is likely to be of value, irrespective of the specific interest of the reader. These items are written by experts in the respective fields. There are additional chapters to the first edition on the use of expert systems, neural nets, teaching, and more.

Ocasionally there is a sense of *déjà vu* when reading a chapter which, although it has been expanded and is still relevant, reads like the first version and shares many of the figures.

There are, inevitably, occasions when readers may question some of the statements. This serves to make the book more stimulating. In addition, it is very comprehensive, highly informative, and will become as widely read as its predecessor.

C SOWTER

**Multipoint Methods in the Clinical Laboratory.** A Handbook. M Faiers, R George, J Jolly, P Wheat. (Pp 95; Paperback £6.95.) PHLS Publications. 1991. ISBN 0 901144 28 2.

Mechanisation or even automation of repetitive processes in the microbiology laboratory has much to commend it. Not least in these troubled times is the potential for reducing the unit costs of routine tests. This slim volume is an introduction to the application of multipoint technology in the diagnostic laboratory. Chapters include identification of Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria, urine testing, application of computers and antimicrobial sensitivity testing. The latter chapter occupies almost half the book, reflecting the wider experience with this particular topic. At first sight, the book appears to be a manual to allow others to proceed. Disappointingly, further reading shows that this is not the case. The book provides no more than an introduction to the subject, highlighting many of the pitfalls. The impression is given that there is far to go before potential gremlins are removed and reliable and consistent results can be expected. Indeed, I gained the impression that this is best left to commercial enterprise.

The book is not well written, repetition and inconsistencies—for example, *M morgani* and *P morgani*—are irritating. The BSMT clearly has an identity crisis—is the Society "microbial" or "multipoint"?

The book is modestly priced and therefore worth a read if only to provide food for thought. There is no question that multipoint technology has an important role in reference and research work, but I was unconvinced that it is ready for widespread use in the diagnostic laboratory.

GL RIDGWAY

**Foodborne Illness—A Lancet Review.** Ed Advisers WM Waites, JP Arbuthnott. (Pp 146; £9.95.) Hodder & Stoughton. 1991. ISBN 0-340-55570-X.

The high level of public concern about food safety reflects its importance as a public health issue and is shown by constant media interest, acceptance by the government of the report of its Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (Richmond Committee), and the passing of the Food Safety Act (1990). This timely *Lancet* review, one of a series of reviews on current themes, sets out to explain the causes and extent of foodborne illnesses and what can be done about them. The 22 contributors are international experts from the United Kingdom and North America who have written concise reviews of 17 topics which were published in the *Lancet* in 1990 and are collected together in this slim and attractive book. The foreword by the editor of the *Lancet*, Robin Fox, sets the scene and is followed by an overview of foodborne illness, descriptions of its epidemiology here and in North America, a review of sources of infection and accounts of food legislation. Next are reviews of illnesses caused by specific bacterial pathogens such as salmonellae and staphylococci, then viruses, and protozoa. The last two reviews are of natural foodborne toxicants and bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Each review is followed by a list of references. This book is a mine of information: it should be read by all microbiologists and others with an interest in foodborne diseases and represents excellent value at the price.

RN PEEL

# NOTICES

*Preliminary announcement:*

**25th Congress of the International Society of Hematology**

**Cancun, Mexico**

**April 17–22 1994**

*For further details contact*

The Secretariat, Blvd Diaz Ordaz 808, 72530, Puebla, Mexico

Tel: 005222-438100
Fax: 005222-438428

**Health professions in 1992: The European Challenge**

Date:
**Tuesday 28 April 1992**

Venue:
**Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ**

Fee:
**£75.00**
(*reduced fee available to members of the Royal Society of Health*)

*All enquiries to:*

Conference Department,
The Royal Society of Health,
38A St George's Drive,
London SW1V 4BH.

Tel: 071-630 0121 Fax: 071-976 6847

**Continuing Medical Education and Training in Europe: The Future**

**October 1 and 2 1992**

**Royal College of Physicians, London**

Further information can be obtained from Dr MWN Nicholls or Mrs JM Coops, The Conference Office, c/o The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel. (44) 071-935 5556. Fax (44) 071-224 3219.

**Association of Clinical Pathologists**

**Junior Membership**

Junior membership of the Association is available to medical practitioners who have been engaged in the practice of pathology for a period of less than four years. Junior members are able to remain in this category for a maximum of six years or on the attainment of consultant status. The annual subscription is £34 for those resident in the United Kingdom and £65 for those overseas. The annual subscription may be claimed against tax.

Junior members receive the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* each month. Other benefits are reduced registration fees to attend ACP scientific meetings, all the documents regularly sent to full members of the Association including *ACP News*, which has a regular column for juniors, and the twice yearly summary of pathology courses included in the ACP programme of postgraduate education. Junior members have their own representative body, the Junior Members' Group, which has a direct input to Council.

For Junior Membership apply to: The Honorary Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, 221 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. (0273) 561188.