“blood and bone marrow” deals in turn with blood culture, blood film examination for malaria, and bone marrow culture (for organisms).

A trainee clinician working on a ward may find this text-oriented approach a useful one as the book provides a reference source of an order of magnitude greater than even the most ambitious laboratory users’ handbook. There are many cartoon illustrations and lists of tests. For pathologists, its main limitations are the lack of technical depth, the limited bibliography, and the inevitable problem of cross referencing an index for a laboratory test repertoire that is common to so many clinical disorders.

J STUART


This volume in the Colour Aids series aims to help undergraduate and postgraduate medical students and students of nursing or related specialties to learn general pathology.

It is not intended to stand alone but to augment existing text books or help with revision, and covers all the main topics regarded as “general” pathology. The format is attractive but I am afraid the aims will not be attained. The treatment is much too superficial for postgraduate students in medicine or surgery. Undergraduate students will suffer because, too often, accuracy is sacrificed in the interest of simplification. Paramedical students will find the diagrams incomprehensible, as I did in many cases, as no explanation is given in the text.

The illustrations are of variable quality; often they are very good but their choice leaves much to be desired. Fabry’s disease, for example, is illustrated without reference in the text and, as in other cases, without any explanatory legend.

I cannot recommend this book.

DJ POLLOCK

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, 221 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. Tel (0273) 561188. Fax: (0273) 541227.