samples. There are nine chapters dedicated to the female genital tract and a further seven chapters covering a range of other body systems. On the whole, the book is clearly written, accurate, and easy to read. However, the two final chapters on image analysis and flow cytometry are rather disappointing and a little out of date. For those about to sit examinations, the quiz in the appendix offers the opportunity for rapid revision, but I did find some of the answers rather obscure.

This book would have benefited from colour illustrations. The black and white pictures are generally of a high quality, but they fail to provide the clarity and subtlety of staining pattern necessary to be really useful to the inexperienced reader. Another serious deficiency in the book is the use of the Bethesda system of reporting cervical smears which could lead to confusion and difficulties in interpretation for cytotechnologists in the United Kingdom. Although the authors make an attempt to correlate the Bethesda system with other classifications, they fail to mention dyskaryosis which is the terminology used throughout the United Kingdom. Despite these criticisms, this book is not overpriced and would form a useful addition to departmental cytopathology libraries.

**EUPHEMIA MCGOOGAN**


It is with some discomfort that I have to say I can find nothing to criticise in this short and uncluttered guide to the complete world of transfusion medicine. I mean, there must be something wrong with it, but I cannot think what it might be.

The text is lively, concise, up to date, and easy to read. Dogma rules and there are questions, but this is an asset. The illustrations are liberal and helpful. There are little take-away messages in boxes dotted about the book with such aphorisms as “sick babies are more likely to be transfused than any other patients” or “transfusion of less than two units of red cells is bad clinical practice”. Superficially these two comments might seem incompatable, but in the context of the chapters concerned none is likely to be confused. Quite the reverse.

Who is it for? Definitely students (all shapes and sizes, under and postgraduate), anaesthetists, surgeons and physicians. Haematologists will use it surreptitiously, refreshed to have such an easy source of information and guilty that they don’t know it all already. In short it is hard to think of any clinical group who will not find it useful. There are even bits relevant to histopathologists. What more can be said?

**JS LILLEYMAN**


To read a pathology text, One’s brain has to keep itself flexed, So a book all in verse, Might be less of a curse, Though it makes one ask whatever next.

The traditional student may dread it, But when one has actually read it, One can say the result Is amusing, if cute And one feels Dr S deserves credit.

Somehow Leslie Sobin has managed to encompass a wide range of pathological observations into five line stanzas along the style of that shown above. This second edition is an expansion of the first, published in 1978. Originally intended as an amuse-ment it does, however, also contain a consider-able amount of accurate, factual information. I recommend this inexpensive little book to you as a piece of light reading which may also enhance your recall of pathology!

**DR TURNER**


This atlas of gynaecological pathology, according to the authors, aims to present a simple and concise guide to, and review of, the microscopic features of frequently encountered lesions. My immediate reac-tion on receipt of the book was one of dis-appointment on finding that the illustrations were all in black and white, rather than in colour as is already available in comparable books such as that by Fox and Buckley (MTP Press Ltd). Although the illustrations are on the whole of good qual-ity, there are some which have been under-exposed. Equally, some of the original sections, which have been used for illustra-tive purposes, include microtome knife scores. The contents cover the histopathol-ogy of lesions of vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tube, ovary and pregnancy, and also include sections on gynaecological cytolgy and breast histopathology. The selection of illustrations presented is interesting, but I do wonder how many pathologists would regard, for example, a fallopian tube adenocarcinoma as “a frequently encoun-tered lesion”. The text which accompanies the illustrations is rather brief and I would have thought to the potential reader would be inadequate for a proper understanding of the lesions being considered.

It is suggested that the book will be of value to trainee gynaecologists and clinici-ans wishing to review pathology. However, there are many excellent texts with good quality illustrations already avail-able in this field, and I would find it difficult to recommend this particular book to my colleagues.

**AJ ROBERTSON**


“The gold standard...” screams the adver-sising leaflet for this 2000 page, two vol-ume, 5-5 kg multiauthor textbook, quoting from a review of the third edition. One immediately wonders if, as with post-war side theatres staging productions, it is claimed to be “riveting” “an evening to remember” or “a joyous experience”, some valid qualifier such as “not” or “hardly” might be missing.

The reader should be reassured. For size and effort alone the description would be appropriate, and the work is in reality a major reference source on haematology of human beings of all ages and not just chil-dren. There is much basic science, and extensive revision has been undertaken since the last edition five years ago. The editors must have a task akin to that of painting the Forth Bridge (that is, never ending), for the production time of a publi-ca-tion of this breadth and depth, mar-shalling some 90 expert contributors, must be a quinquennium at least.

Children’s blood diseases tend to fall into two categories, extremely common and very rare. It is for the latter type that the contents particularly excel. To enter the litera-ture (the North American literature, anyway) is an haematological topic, however obscure, this text is as good as a CD-ROM database. Although most sec-tions are readable, the book is definitely for reference, not browsing. Its size and weight...