past decade. More than 40 authors have contributed to the 31 chapters covering the wide field extending from the bench to the clinic.

The book is organised in six parts: basic biology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical features, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Basic data are carefully described though persisting difficulties are dealt with as such. The attempt at in vitro cultivation which remains disappointing and largely contributes to slowing down progress in basic aspects of P. carinii. Advances in molecular biology, as well as pathophysiology features, are thoroughly described and referenced.

Half of the book is devoted to the clinical management of PCP, and provides a very valuable state of the art. The last chapters analyse new directions of drug research, including data gathered on important families of compounds like derivates of pentamidine, folic antagonists, aminoquinolines, hydroxyquinolines, and B-glucan synthesis inhibitors.

Overall, this unique book is the most comprehensive source of data in the fast evolving field of P. carinii infection. It will be particularly useful and saving time for researchers. Indeed, it is the reference book on pneumocystis.

PIERRE-MARIE GIRARD


This book is based on five articles previously published in Thorax, with further chapters added, and the result is a wide-ranging review of many aspects of lung cancer.

The first chapter goes straight to the root of the problem: by describing the links between tobacco and lung cancer. In fact, although much of the book is optimistic about the advances made in the treatment of lung cancer, the overall prognosis is still very poor and this chapter makes the important point that much more effort should be made towards prevention. This is a particularly useful and informative chapter in that it goes into details of numerical trends in lung cancer and also investigates some of the politics of the tobacco industry.

Genetic changes in lung cancer are then covered. At present, there is not a great deal of information about genetic linkage in lung cancer, which is reflected in the short nature of this chapter. Some of the text would be perhaps more appropriate in the chapter dealing with the biology of lung cancer, in particular the description of p53.

There is a very useful review on the newer endocrine aspects of lung tumours. This chapter is the same as a chapter on lung cancer which frequently causes confusion, particularly with the terminology which is applied to small cell carcinoma. The association between the different subtypes of typical small cell carcinoma and endocrine carcinoma is clearly described and put in a historical context.

The association between hormones and growth factors and lung cancer cannot be ignored and this chapter goes into a great deal of basic biochemical detail which would probably be more than most readers would require. It is always useful, however, to review some of the basic cellular processes involved in the biochemistry of growth factors. It would have been useful to review the new developments in the assessment of lung tumour markers. In the chapter on lung cancer antigens, I feel, is less successful, probably because of the early nature of the development of this subject, in particular the complex nomenclature of the antigens. The latter half of the book has a very clinical bias and is particularly useful to non-specialists involved in the biology of lung cancer.

In summary, this book provides a good review of lung cancer, although by its very nature only snapshots of the subject are taken. This is not a comprehensive book; it is a collection of chapters in the book is some slight discontinuity and repeti-


This is a collection of papers presented at an international symposium on “fractals in biology and medicine” held in Ascona, Switzerland, 1–4 January 1993. We are told that there were 90 contributors from the USA, United Kingdom, continental Europe, Canada, and Japan. Five participants are identified as coming from Institutes of Pathology; two of these are Departments of Cellular Pathology; two others come from Microbiology Institutes. There is a section entitled “fractals in pathology” which contains four chapters; two on bone morphobi-


This is a large book which aims at comprehensive coverage of the difficult subject of pulmonary pathology. Sixty one authors have contributed, mostly from the USA, with a few contributions from Canada and South America. Layout is conventional and includes sections on the normal lung, diagnostic techniques, and paediatric lung diseases.

The text is copiously illustrated and some 200 colour illustrations are included. Unfortunately, a significant proportion of the black and white pictures are out of focus, unevenly illuminated, or lack sufficient contrast. The colour pictures suffer in some cases from poor colour rendition—eosin appearing as an intense red. Quality quibbles aside, the illustrations are abundant and well chosen.

European pathologists must expect to differ from their American colleagues over nomenclature of pulmonary disorders. Intestinal lung disease is one example and lymphomas of the lung another. The American view also prevails in the discussion of thymomas and the widely used Müller-Hermelink classification receives no mention. Excluding terminological disputes, coverage is generally comprehensive.