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 duly mentioned, such as numerous attempts 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 derivatives of pentamidine, folate antagonists, aminoquinolines, hydroxynaphtoquinones, and B₁-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 time saving for researchers. Indeed, it is the reference book on pneumocystis.

PIERRE-MARIE GIRARD

New Perspectives in Lung Cancer. Eds N Thatcher, S Spiro. (Pp 193; £21.95.) BMJ Publishing Group. 1994. ISBN 0-7279-0786-7

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 is an aspect of classification of 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 some of the molecular biology of cell proliferation and use of proliferation markers in the assessment of lung tumours. 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. Time will tell if the assessment of lung tumour antigens will be relevant in the treatment of lung cancer.

The latter half of the book has a very clinical bias and is particularly useful to non-clinicians 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. The penalty of being a multiauthor book is some slight discontinuity and repetition within the book; a little more liaison among the authors, particularly in the basic science chapters, would have been of benefit. However, I would recommend it as a succinct review of some advances seen in the very important subject of lung cancer.

EA SHEFFIELD

Fractals in Biology and Medicine. Eds TF Nonnenmacher, GA Losa, ER Weibel. (Pp 397; SFr 78.) Birkhauser. 1994. ISBN 3-7643-2989-0.

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 or Departments 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 morphometry, one on the fat content of liver determined by ultrasound scans, and one on the fractal dimension of tumour/stromal interface in oral tumours. There are also papers on complex surfaces, various branching phenomena, transport processes, and biological modelling. There is no record of any discussions, although I expect that this was the most interesting aspect of the meeting. The production is of good quality, but the use of English is poor in places.

I am never sure who such conference proceedings are published for—probably the participants—and it is difficult to start any public debate about points of disagreement. Nevertheless, there are many interesting articles in this volume, for those who are interested. There is nothing here for the routine clinical pathologist; but then there is very little in the whole field of fractal geometry that has entered pathology at that level yet.

D COTTON

The Pathology of Trauma. 2nd edn. Ed JK Mason. (Pp 367; £95.) Edward Arnold. 1993. ISBN 0-340-54828-7.

Of the 21 chapters in the original edition of this volume (*The Pathology of Violent Injury* 1978), 18 have been carried over into the new edition, but eight of these have been written by different authors. Demographic data have been updated in all chapters.

The editor acknowledges in his preface that the book is not meant for the specialist, raising two questions: "What is a specialist?" and "What business has a non-specialist acting in fields which require him to refer to this book?" The book thus falls between two stools—it is possible for the non-specialist to fail to realise how difficult is the interpretation of some aspects of trauma and for the specialist to be frustrated by the failure of the book to address specific problems. Despite separate sections on "child abuse" and accidental injury to children, the opportunity has been missed to give details as to how one may distinguish between intentional and accidental injury to children from the injuries sustained. It is also curious that, where the book is directed to the "clinician involved in trauma", the chapter on "asphyxia" addresses only fatalities.

As a "non-specialist" in those fields, I cannot comment meaningfully on those chapters regarding the biochemistry, haemodynamics, microbiology, and psychopathology of trauma and violence, except to point out that there is more in the literature concerning the histological dating of thrombosis than one might infer from that chapter.

An ambivalent welcome, therefore, to this new edition: should one have access to the original, purchase of this volume need not be regarded as essential.

S LEADBEATTER

Pathology of Pulmonary Disease. Ed Mario J Saldana. (Pp 920; £195.) JB Lippincott. 1994. ISBN 0-397-51257-0.

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. Interstitial 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-Hemerlink classification receives no mention. Excluding terminological disputes, coverage is generally comprehensive