cific clinical settings, transfusion transmitted infections, adverse reactions to transfusion, and new and evolving regimens. The layout is extremely user-friendly with respect to con-
sulting the book on a particular bedside prob-
lem. At times, perhaps the enthusiasm for clini-
cal matters is carried a little too far, the
summary of surgical techniques used in intra-
hepatic shunts, which appears in the section on surgical blood saving, is fascinating but possibly superfluous in this presentation. In
general though the approach of case orien-
tated discussion works well and, where neces-
sary, sufficient laboratory background is given
to enable a good understanding of the problems.

This "background" approach could in places have been further developed with advantage, for instance with the reference, in various sections, to leucocyte reduction. Separated as they are, it is less easy to obtain an overview of the basics and drawbacks of this technique, and a small, specific section dealing with mechanisms of filtration and critical factors in the use of filters would have been useful.

The section on new and evolving regimens brings the reader up to date with the subject dealing with response modifiers, adoptive immunotherapy, gene therapy, and peripheral blood stem cell therapy. This text was prepared at a time when allogenic cord blood transfusion was seen as a topic still under development but with an apparently bright future, so one can confidently expect a devel-
oment of this theme in the fourth edition of this text. Perhaps one of the greatest virtues of the volume is its comprehensive list of references. Admittedly, with a multiauthor

genesis, references may be duplicated, but with 6049, readers hardly be likely to be frustrated in their search for Knowledge. Any book in which the section on platelet therapy begins with an aphorism to the effect that possession of a thorough understanding of platelet transfusion is indicative of confusion rather than confidence, cannot be all bad. This volume is virtually all good and commends itself to anyone taking an active interest in transfusion medicine at a post-
graduate level. No self respecting specialist in the subject should be without it.

W WAGSTAFF

Bone Marrow Pathology. 2nd edn. Bain BJ, Clark DM, Lampert IA. (Pp 328;
£79.50.) Blackwell Science. 1996. ISBN 0
865 42667 3.

It was a pleasure to review the second edition
of "Bone Marrow Pathology" knowing how useful the first edition has proved. For those not familiar with the book, it is an ideal practical book for all haematologists and his-
topathologists involved in reporting bone
marrow aspirates and trephines. It has a clear layout with good quality colour photomicrographs of an appropriate mixture of cytoplogical and histological appear-
ances. The chapters work methodically through the normal marrow, infective and reactive conditions, the various haematologi-
cal and lymphoid malignancies, disorders of haemopoiesis, metastatic tumours, and bone disorders. There are useful tables and graphs of normal values, grading systems, classification of leukaeemias and lymphomas, suitable antibody panels, etc. The text is easy to read and with a wealth of practical comments related to the authors' experience.

If there is any department that reports tri-
phones and does not own the first edition, then the second edition is an essential purchase. I have tried to do a "spot the differ-
ence" between the two editions to decide whether owners of the first edition should upgrade. The chapter titles are unchanged and most of the photographs and tables are the same. This is not a major rewrite but there are significant differences in areas such as immunocytochemistry and lymphoma classification. The REAL classification is included and compared with the Kiel and Working Formulation. Useful new antibodies are discussed, and a technical appendix has been added. Several pages are devoted to a new section on artefacts that should be particularly useful to haematologists who are less likely to be familiar with the artefacts common to formalin fixed, paraffin wax
embedded sections.

The book emphasizes an integrated ap-
proach for reaching a diagnosis. There is no place for a histopathologist reporting the tre-
phone in ignorance of the aspirate’s appear-
ance but it is also unsatisfactory if the trephone goes straight to the haematologist. The combination of good quality trephone sections and this book should encourage his-
topathologists to participate in this fascinat-
ing and demanding field. Haematologists reading this book will appreciate the addi-
tional information that can be gleaned from good quality sections and this may influence their attitude towards taking trephines.

S DILLY

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Professor G H Elder, tel: 01222 742799 (laboratory); 01222 743565; fax 01222
766276.

The standard of the responses to the invi-
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Board, EHHMS, University of Surrey, Stirling House Campus, Surrey Research
Park, Guildford GU2 5RF.

Correction

Proliferation index—a comparison between cutaneous basal and squamous cell carcinomas
Reference 2 in this letter should have read:
De Vico G, Agrimi U, Maiolino P. Nuclear size and mitotic index in basal cell carcino-
and not as published. The error is regretted.

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Monday 17 November 1997

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