Book Reviews

Cellular Pathology Technique, Fourth edition. C.F.A. Culling, R.T. Allison and W.T. Barr. Pp. viii + 642, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1985. £35.00.

To those familiar with the *Handbook of Histopathological and Histochemical Techniques* by Charles Culling, this thoroughly revised version of an invaluable laboratory text- and bench-book will be very welcome. Most chapters have been completely rewritten to provide a modern and easy-to-read text, although some, such as those on lipids, micro-incineration and museum technique, have remained unchanged in content if not in composition. There are new chapters dealing with immunohistochemistry, biopsies, muscle and endocrine cells, and other topics such as bone, teeth, cytology and microscopy have been considerably expanded. The section on processing has been updated to include the newer clearing agents, and some helpful comments on the orientation of certain tissues prior to embedding. The lay-out of the book is pleasant, and a useful feature is the highlighting of those sections of text which are actual methods; thus allowing both easy references when working at the bench, and uninterrupted reading when technical detail is not required. The insertion of references at the end of each chapter rather than at the end of the book is also an improvement on earlier editions. Black-and-white photographs of both equipment and histological sections occur throughout the book, and the majority of them serve as clear illustrations.

At present, there are few comprehensive manuals of cellular pathology technique (several of the more popular ones confine themselves to staining techniques only) and this volume should prove to be a valuable addition to the modern histopathology department.

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Common Eye Diseases and Their Management, N.R. Gallaway. Pp. x + 278, illustrated. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo, 1985. DM 98.00. £26.00.

The preface to this new general text book of ophthalmology states that it is intended for both medical students and non-specialist postgraduates, and emphasises the need for an increase in undergraduate teaching in ophthalmology, and exposure to the specialty. Accordingly, the book has been deliberately written in five sections in a somewhat repetitive manner.

There is a small introductory section on Structure and Examination of the Eye followed by a section on Primary Eye Care Problems, which in turn is followed by a section entitled Problems of the Eye Surgeon. A section entitled Problems of the Medical Ophthalmologist is followed finally by an extremely good section on blindness.

The book is well written, although the introductory section may not contain enough information, particularly in relation to neuro-ophthalmology and the higher centres for a proper understanding of eye diseases in relation to neurology. It is possible to disagree with the scope of the problems described in the section on primary eye care as against the section on the problems of the eye surgeon, but this is a matter of emphasis, although one would question whether squint was not a general practitioner's problem, given the current emphasis on primary care and community eye care.

The book is well printed and produced, but at £26.00 is very expensive as an undergraduate text book and one would hope that in a subsequent edition, thought might be given to the provision of colour illustrations and a slightly different format, to obviate some of the more pedantic, repetitive topics.

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Endocrine Physiology, Constance R. Martin. Pp. xiii + 1009, illustrated. Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford, 1985. £45.00.

This volume sets out the application of the principles of molecular endocrinology to the understanding of mammalian physiology. Since most basic research is conducted on animals, both invertebrates and vertebrates, many of the systems are considered in detail in these animals, although extrapolation is also made to human physiology and clinical literature. Smaller type is used for those parts of the text that describe more advanced biochemical data or more advanced controversial discussion of the subject.

The first 150 pages are an introduction to the endocrine system of vertebrates, including the embryology and development of vertebrate endocrine systems. The second part deals with hormonal regulation of carbohydrate, protein and lipid metabolism, dealing with each one in turn under separate headings of the different endocrine glands, the pancreas, the adrenal cortex, the anterior pituitary and the adrenal medulla and related tissues. The third part outlines the hormones regulating water and monovalent electrolyte metabolism and is split into sections dealing with the aldosterone and renin angiotensin systems and vasopressin. The fourth part covers hormonal regulation of calcium and phosphate metabolism. Part five deals with reproduction and includes a large section on the embryology and development of sexual differentiation. The last two sections cover hormones affecting body size and composition and are split into sections on the thyroid hormones, growth hormones and on somatomedins. The final part covers the hypothalamus, hypophysis and thymus glands.

As one would expect, the volume will appeal mostly to students of physiology and to postgraduate students. The initial chapters give a good introduction to the vertebrate