virus types A and B and in the immunology of these infections all receive little mention. This really means that the time is not yet ripe for a definitive monograph on this subject.

Finally, the paucity of illustrations, even as a measure of economy, is surprising as is the absence of an electronmicrograph of the complete hepatitis B virus, apart from a single Dane particle tucked away in the margin of plate VI. The printing is by phototype set, and the use of poor quality paper containing a significant proportion of re-cycled fibre, claimed as the publisher's contribution to conservation, and the occasional lapses in binding suggest that the age of the disposable "hardback" book has regrettably arrived.

A. J. ZUCKERMAN

Urinary cytology

By DUANE N. TWEEDDALE. 1977. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown and Co. Pp. xiii and 158. US\$ 16.50.

This monograph is a well bound and clearly printed text of 158 pages intended to provide the cytopathologist and cytotechnologist with a working knowledge of practical urinary cytology. After a brief historical review, the author devotes eight pages to methods of collection of samples from the urinary tract and to the preparation and staining of the cellular content. The art of microscopical diagnosis can only be achieved when there is understanding of the effects of disease upon normal microscopical anatomy. Rightly, the author describes the histological changes, correlating them with the cytological ones, and stressing in particular those due to viruses, drugs and neoplasia. The concluding chapter is devoted to the cytopathology of the prostate.

Diagnostic cytology has become an essential and valuable tool for following both developing and treated cancers of the bladder, and 6-monthly urinary examinations are mandatory for persons exposed to defined industrial carcinogens. Carcinoma of the prostate is increasing in incidence and is the fourth commonest cancer in the UK and the second in the USA. Thus, there is a need for acquiring skills in the difficult field of urinary cytology. Does the author succeed in his intentions? To learn cytology from pictures, particularly if they are black and white photographs, is often difficult. Some years ago, I heard Hertig quote his old chief, Wolbach, thus: "The most important question in cytology is to ask 'Where does the cell come from?'" The novice can master the art if the principles are grasped and a discipline of good preparation, careful microscopy and clinical follow-up is established. I think this first edition will serve its purpose well.

MAX LEVENE

Recent advances in clinical immunology

Edited by R. A. THOMPSON. 1977. Harlow, Essex: Longman Group Ltd. Pp. viii and 299. £10.00.

The editor of a series of books entitled "Recent Advances in Clinical Immunology" has an unenviable task because to promote "recent advances" in any subject presupposes that the subject in question has been satisfactorily defined. Clinical immunology, as everyone recognises, lies uneasily between three territories of medical concern, on each of which it partially encroaches. Firstly, there are disorders, such as primary immunodeficiency, that present clinical problems of diagnosis and management and yet are predominantly immunological in nature. Such topics emphasise that clinical immunology is a part of clinical medicine. Secondly, diagnostic techniques, such as tests of the complement system, that analyse the immunological features of disease in the laboratory, have been introduced; clinical immunology is thus seen to add to the diagnostic skills of the clinical pathologist. Finally, immunological processes in varying degree are involved in the pathogenesis of a wide range of diseases. In this context, clinical immunology is of great academic interest, but of less practical concern to clinicians; it is still possible to be a competent rheumatologist but to remain unmoved by the plight of New Zealand mice. Given the diffuse nature of the subject, this volume betrays the impossibility of providing a balanced diet that will satisfy all clinical immunologists.