

BOOK REVIEW

CARLETON'S HISTOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE **Fifth Edition; by RAB Drury and EA Wallington.** **£24. Oxford Medical Publications, 1980.**

"Carleton's histological technique" has long been an essential text for those who genuinely wish to understand and provide reliable work within the histopathology laboratory. This new edition continues to be practical in its approach. Its 520 pages, punctuated with appropriate illustrations and tables, takes the reader systematically through the use of the light and electron microscopes, tissue fixation, processing, microtomy and staining. Techniques are described in precise, detailed steps, supplemented by useful information on the suitability of tissues, the scientific basis of the procedures, the results to expect and pitfalls of the methods. As such, the text is suited not only for the technologist but also for the candidate for membership of the Royal College of Pathologists. Substantial revision of the

previous text has also been made. A few outdated methods have been deleted and pertinent accounts of scanning electron microscopy and SI units are added. Excellent new chapters on immunohistology and quantitative methods have been included while the text on cytology has been improved. Four useful indexes are provided although the print-type is rather small for comfortable reference. The account on plastic embedded sections for light microscopy is on the brief side but all in, the text is sensible, comprehensive and compact. This new, updated edition maintains the high standard of its earlier text and will continue to occupy an eminent position on the laboratory bench.

L.M. LOOI