examine the capsule of the nodule for invasion by the epithelial cells in four slides because of extensive peripheral fibrosis. As these two cases were cytologically classified as Hürthle cell neoplasia (1.5 cm in diameter) and follicular neoplasia (2 cm in diameter), respectively, it is important for the final diagnosis that the nodule be examined for possible invasion of blood vessels or capsule by neoplastic cells. The remaining 29 surgical specimens were examined in other laboratories and I am unaware of similar problems in those cases.

Confusion of the subsequent histology as an untoward effect after fine needle aspiration has been reported in malignant melanoma due to induced inflammation.¹ To the best of our knowledge this is the first report that such confusion of the histological appearances may cause in the thyroid as a result of fine needle aspiration.

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Dr Lever and colleagues reply as follows:

We were very interested to read Dr Tseleni's letter. The fact that this is the first report of fine needle aspiration of the thyroid confusing subsequent histology shows that this must be a very rare complication of the technique and certainly one we have not experienced.

We feel the risk of this could be reduced by having the patient sitting up rather than lying down during the aspiration and applying firm pressure over the thyroid for at least five minutes after the puncture.

In our opinion, the advantages of thyroid nodule aspiration cytodiagnosis outweigh this rare complication.

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Chlamydia trachomatis in premature infants

Numazaki *et al*¹ have questioned the correlation between chronic respiratory disease and infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* in premature infants, and have shown evidence of this infection in some babies with prolonged respiratory problems.

We recently reported five cases of chlamydial pneumonia in the low birth weight neonate,² two of which progressed to bronchopulmonary dysplasia; and all five of which had protracted ventilatory and oxygen requirements.

In all instances of chronic lung disease in the preterm neonate *C trachomatis* infection should be sought both by serological techniques and direct isolation. This should be pursued irrespective of the mode of delivery, as both Numazaki *et al* and ourselves have shown that chlamydial infection occurs in babies born by caesarean section as well as those born vaginally.

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Book reviews

The Cytobiology of Leukemias and Lymphomas. Serono Symposia Publications from Raven Press Vol 20. Ed D Quaglino, FC, Hayhoe. (Pp 524; \$65.50.) Raven Press 1985.

This book represents the proceedings of a conference held in Siena, Italy, in 1984 where an update on the biological markers of lymphomas and leukaemias was brought up by various experts in each speciality. Most chapters are very well written, and some of them represent comprehensive reviews of exceptional clarity, like the one on the myelodysplastic and preleukaemic states by DAG Galton, that by I Ernberg on the role of c-myc and Epstein-Barr virus in Burkitt's lymphoma, and the critical discussion by F Rilke on the new proposals for the classification of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, just to mention a few. In addition to this type of review paper, other chapters describe the individual experience of some research groups on specific subjects, and some of these provide useful information on the application of the various biological markers to the study of lymphoproliferative diseases.

The text and photographic printing is of excellent quality, and, on the whole, this book can be recommended to all those with a common interest in understanding the basic biological mechanisms underlying leukaemias and lymphomas.

JV MELI

Muscle Biopsy. A Practical Approach. 2nd ed. Victor Dubowitz. (Pp 720; £45.) Holt Saunders. 1985.

The first edition of this book appeared 10 years ago and met with immediate acclaim, as the combined experience of two leading myopathology experts, on both sides of the Atlantic. There were ample illustrations, numerous case histories, and above all a system of histology "bargraphs" of important conditions which helped decide how common abnormalities were likely to appear in a given disorder.

Dr Brooke was unable to contribute to the second edition, which has been rewritten by Victor Dubowitz with the help of Caroline Sewry and Dr Fitzsimons. The new volume is half as large again and liberally illustrated. Case histories have again been included, but, unfortunately, the bargraphs

have not. If they could have been updated with 12 more years of experience at the Hammersmith added, the second edition could have been even more useful than the first. The new volume can be recommended as a work of erudition, but should not replace the first edition.

DGF HARRIMAN

Tumors and Pseudotumors of the Serous Membranes. Atlas of Tumour Pathology. 2nd series. (Pp 124; \$10.00.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1985.

This atlas of mesothelial pathology follows the usual format of the fascicles of tumour pathology from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. All of the series are comprehensive atlases with ample supporting information, and this volume is no exception.

The text includes a helpful section on development, anatomy, and function of the serous membranes, as well as a good review of the role of asbestos in the aetiology of mesotheliomas. The illustrations, as usual, are almost all black and white and for the most part correlate well with the text. Perhaps the only criticism of this volume is that some of the lower power photomicrographs are not very sharp. The uses of histochemistry, immunohistochemistry, and electron microscopy are included and are well illustrated, particularly with electron micrographs.

This atlas is a very useful addition to the series, presenting a clear and well organised review of tumours and pseudotumours of the serous membranes and must surely be an essential volume on the shelves of all histopathology laboratories, and its very reasonable price makes it affordable.

NICOLA BARNARD

Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation. Ed AG Stansfield. (Pp 419; £60.) Churchill Livingstone. 1985.

It is a pleasure to read this book edited and largely written by one of Britain's most distinguished haematopathologists. The book begins with a stimulating account of the functional anatomy of lymph nodes and this is followed by chapters on Hodgkin's disease and non-neoplastic lymphadenopathies, which cover the subjects in a straightforward and comprehensive manner. It is, however, the section on the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas that is outstanding. The clear text and beautiful illustrations will be welcomed by all histopathologists who

will find how logical and easy to apply is the Kiel classification, which has been used to such good effect in this book. None of the currently used classifications adequately covers T cell lymphomas, and these are provisionally classified and extremely well described here.

My single reservation, perhaps not surprisingly, is the editor's decision to confine immunohistochemistry to a single, somewhat indigestible chapter. Unlike the editor, I feel that immunohistochemistry is no longer the province of specialised laboratories and I would like to have seen more of this subject integrated into the text. This is one of those rare histopathology text books that fully justifies its price and belongs in the personal library of every histopathologist.

PG ISAACSON

Textbook of Neuropathology. RL Davis, DM Robertson. (Pp 900; £117.) Williams and Wilkins. 1985.

This multiauthor book comprises 17 well illustrated and extensively referenced chapters. Detailed accounts are given of the normal cellular components of the nervous system and their reactions to disease; the choroid plexus, CSF, hydrocephalus, oedema, and the pathophysiology of raised intracranial pressure; congenital and perinatal neuropathology; and metabolic deficiency and cerebrovascular diseases, intoxications, demyelination, infections, system degenerations, trauma, and Alzheimer's disease. Deliberately not included are chapters on tumours and diseases of peripheral nerve and skeletal muscle.

There can be little doubt that this book is the north American counterpart to Europe's latest edition of *Greenfield's Neuropathology*. Inevitably, there are many similarities and yet there are sufficient differences in content, emphasis, and style to make this book well worth reading. Because of the amount of pathological detail provided, its potential usefulness to neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrists, and individual general pathologists is likely to be limited. It is, however, enthusiastically recommended as a reference title for specialised libraries and as a bench book in departments of neuropathology.

DI GRAHAM

The Pathologist and the Environment. Ed DG Scarpelli, JE Craighead, N Kaufman. (Pp 239; £47.) Williams and Wilkins. 1985. International Academy of Pathology Monograph.

The title begs a question, and the text failed to define the term environment, thereby diffusing the reader's expectation of a consistent theme.

Given that the principal concern of the book is with the harmful effects of external agents, the pathologist is anyone using scientific methods to study disease and the agents are anything noxious. Accordingly there is a bland introductory chapter followed by sections of limited scope on iatrogenic drug (sic) toxicity and human liver carcinogenesis and chapters of voluminous style on heavy metal neurotoxicity and markers of cellular atypia. The biochemistry of cell death and genes and cancer are covered in passing. The final chapter illustrates the tortuous shambles when law and science meet in the United States with a brief lawyer's guide to the evidence and the claims there about asbestos and human disease.

Overall the book is more lightweight than its title claims. It will be a valuable guide to more critical accounts of the topics it displays (albeit with some correction for the predominance of north American references), but it does not give the rounded account of the innumerable toxicological problems that still lie in wait for the alert pathologist.

AD DAYAN

Gene Expression during Normal and Malignant Differentiation. Ed LC Andersson, CG Gahrberg, P Ekblom. (Pp 257; £26.50.) Academic Press. 1985.

Advances in Cancer Research. Vol 45. Ed G Klein, S Weinhouse. (Pp 324; £48.) Academic Press. 1985.

Two recent books from Academic Press comprise collections of reviews on laboratory cancer research, but are otherwise very different, a disparity that prompts thoughts about who gains from such volumes. The publishers clearly profit, but are other beneficiaries the writers or readers, and, the latter, at what audience are these books aimed?

Gene Expression during Normal and Malignant Differentiation was clearly a chore for the authors but they gained in other ways, for the book records a symposium held in May 1984 sponsored by a philanthropic Finnish foundation. The organisers invited eminent scientists from