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Developmental and Neonatal Haematology. (Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Series). Ed JA Stockman III, C, Pochedly. (Pp 348; \$86.50.) 1987. ISBN 0-88167-330-7.

Any book on fetal and neonatal haematology has to be welcomed because there are so few. For this reason alone the editors should be applauded.

As far as the contents are concerned, if there is a problem, it is one of balance. Because fetal and neonatal red cells and platelets have been more studied, they are given pride of place with five chapters on erythrocytes and four about platelets. Inevitably there is some duplication. In contrast, white cells are relegated to a single chapter, and coagulation disturbances to part of one. There is no mention of leukaemia—in the index or anywhere else. Similarly there is scant cover of the profound haematological consequences of TORCH infections. There is an excellent section on exchange transfusion which will be of great value to haematologists who are only spectators of the practice, and a succinct and helpful review of alloimmune thrombocytopenia. The first chapter is a little awkwardly placed as it is a detailed review of the process of haemopoiesis, which is no more relevant to this book than any other on haematology. It is not quite clear why the editors have chosen to give the topic such prominence.

Academic departments, libraries, and any haematologist with an interest in neonatal red cells or platelets should consider buying the book. For them it can be confidently recommended. For the general reader who wants an occasional reference to provide practical advice, its scope is perhaps more limited than the title might suggest.

JS LILLEYMAN

Atlas of Experimental Toxicological Pathology. C Gopinath, DE Prentice, DJ Lewis. Current Histopathology. Vol. 13. (Pp 175; £75.) MTP Press Ltd. 1988. ISBN 0-85200-332-3.

This atlas, the thirteenth in a series, beautifully illustrates over 500 non-neoplastic lesions mainly in rodents, dogs, and primates. These lesions were induced during routine safety evaluation studies on new

drugs and industrial chemicals. In tackling this gargantuan subject, the coverage given to each organ system has inevitably been brief, none the less some fascinating lesions are shown. A further but unavoidable limitation is that for commercial reasons many of the substances inducing the lesions have not been named. One would love to know more about such things as "reticuloendothelial system expanders". It is a pity that none of the micrographs in this atlas bear a magnification.

These criticisms do not detract from the usefulness of this book, which is concisely written and undoubtedly occupies a previously vacant space in the literature. At £75 a copy it is probably beyond the reach of most students, but for toxicological pathologists, the book is worth keeping within reach of the microscope.

CJ POWELL

Urinary Tract Infection in Clinical and Laboratory Practice. R Maskell. (Pp 268; £25.) Edward Arnold. 1988. ISBN 0-7131-4535-8.

Physicians, whether based in hospital or general practice, are often faced with the problem of urinary tract infection. Yet despite its common occurrence, patient management is often less than satisfactory. Many doctors still believe that all is required of them is to issue a prescription for an antibiotic and the problem will disappear. As a result young patients can develop chronic renal failure following renal scarring due to inadequate initial care. Studies have shown that a multidisciplinary assault is in the best interests of the patient. Dr Maskell, with a long experience of urinary tract infections and their problems, has attempted such a multidiscipline approach in this book. Her first all important chapter examines the pathogenesis of urinary tract infections, which as she so rightly says "... is fundamental to all aspects of diagnosis of management of patients with this condition". Subsequent chapters examine laboratory practice, treatment, and management of urinary tract infections in general practice, specialist areas such as paediatrics, and in general medicine and surgery. The book also contains three useful appendices on imaging of the urinary tract, laboratory examination of urine, and the organisation of a urinary infection clinic. Dr Maskell is to be congratulated on producing a volume which should prove useful to clinicians and microbiologists alike.

RC SPENCER

An Introduction to Neuropathology. J Hume Adams and DI Graham. (Pp 309; soft cover £29.85.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-01554-6.

General pathologists frequently regard neuropathology as so esoteric that they cannot examine the nervous system properly. This book aims to persuade them that the proper examination of the brain and spinal cord is a straightforward exercise and that it will be of help to pathologists in training, experienced pathologists, and to clinicians in the neurological sciences.

The introduction describes the more important techniques in neuropathology including removal of the brain and spinal cord, fixation, block taking, and relevant histological techniques. This is followed by a chapter summarising basic neuroanatomy that will assist the pathologist in describing and interpreting structural abnormalities. There are chapters on the usual groups of disease processes affecting the nervous system including nerve and the muscle. At the end of each chapter there is a short list of references recommending further reading.

This book achieves its aims. It is well written and the illustrations are adequate and of good quality. It is also good value for money.

WR TIMPERLEY

Morphological Tumor Markers. General Aspects and Diagnostic Relevance. Current Topics in Pathology. Vol. 77. Ed. CL Berry, E Grundmann. (Pp 398; DM248.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-16733-1.

This book covers the diagnostic relevance of a range of tumour markers. Although the emphasis is on immunohistochemistry, biochemical and hybridisation techniques are also dealt with. Much interesting background information is provided on the chemical nature of familiar antigens. Inevitably with a multi-author book some chapters are better written than others, although most are clear and succinct with only some repetition, particularly regarding CEA and AFP.

The diagnostic surgical pathologist will find the chapters on the immunohistochemistry of epithelial and mesenchymal tumours helpful, although there is little on the use of markers in lymphomas. There is also a useful section on pitfalls in immunohistochemistry. The final chapter is a superb overview and valuable summary of the role

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of tumour markers in diagnosis. There is a good comprehensive index.

Overall, this book's principal use is as a source of background information, but it should also be of help to the surgical pathologist when faced with a diagnostic problem.

DC BROWN

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Pathology. Haines and Taylor. Ed. H Fox. Vols. 1 & 2. 3rd ed. (Pp 1331; £195.) Churchill Livingstone. 1987. ISBN 0-443-02405-7.

In revising this highly respected textbook the editor has purposely given full rein to the many distinguished contributors in developing their assigned topics. The outcome of this policy is a meticulously annotated and broadly based survey of obstetric and gynaecological pathology which would be hard to emulate. Apart from a comprehensive analysis of what might be regarded as the conventional aspects of the specialty there are well documented and informative sections on embryology, iatrogenic disease, placental pathology, and the pathological aspects of pregnancy. There is also a useful introduction to perinatal pathology. As one might expect, the quality of writing and illustrations shows some variability but is generally of a high order. The editorial policy, however, has some minor drawbacks. Inevitably there is some duplication, and in a rapidly developing field the somewhat over cautious view of immunohistochemistry is understandable; but there are quite numerous spelling errors and the occasional photomicrograph is transposed.

None the less no pathologist aspiring to a special interest in gynaecological pathology, and no major laboratory which has any pretence to providing a proper and updated service to clinicians, can afford to be without a reference book of this quality.

FD LEE

Pathology of the Head and Neck. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol. 10. Ed. DR Gnepp. (Pp 680; £70.00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-08495-5.

This is a selective review of recent advances in the pathology of the head and neck. At its

best, in the chapters on salivary lesions and thyroid disease new and controversial entities are authoritatively covered with good quality illustrations and current references. There is a rich diet of facts in the chapters on epidemiology and environmental pathology. Electron microscopy is given a refreshing problem orientated approach and the chapter on immunohistopathology gives useful differential diagnostic advice. The difficult topic of extranodal lymphoma is reviewed with some success but is confounded by an account of "midline malignant reticulosis" in a subsequent chapter. Other chapters are less successful. An account of fine needle aspiration cytology tries to be too comprehensive, being neither a bench book nor a bench mark. Overall, this text is well produced. It should be read by those who have an interest in head and neck disease and deserves a place in the library of any teaching centre.

AJ NORTON

Textbook of Uncommon Cancer. Ed. CJ Willis, JC Krikorian, MR Green, D Raghavan. (Pp 1064; £110.) John Wiley. 1988. ISBN 0-4719-0968-8.

The four editors of this remarkable new book have "set out to collect together comprehensive and critical reviews on many rare tumours". Over 90 contributors have supplied 54 sections, each discussing pathology, clinical features, investigations, and management. Full bibliographies are included. The result is a monumental piece of practical scholarship. The size and scope of the text must defeat any detailed appraisal by one reviewer; but from the point of view of the histopathologist I found it of outstanding value both as a book to dip into and to use for specific problems encountered in the diagnostic service of a cancer hospital. It is probably invidious to pick out individual sections but I particularly enjoyed those dealing with mediastinal, ano-rectal and CNS tumours, and the chapters discussing malignant schwannomas, peripheral neuroepitheliomas, and Paget's disease of the breast. The editors themselves note that uncommon tumours of the lymphohaematopoietic system and some paediatric cancers have been omitted, and these should certainly be included in the next edition. Of course one can find odd points to criticise; a few of the pictures are smeary, some lack magnifications, and there are assorted typographical errors, but the overriding

impression is that this book is of major importance and an outstanding addition to the current literature on cancer.

RL CARTER

Quality Control and Assurance in Clinical Laboratories: Three Years On. Ed. AD Farr. (Pp 220; soft cover £8.) Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, 12 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0AU. 1988. ISBN 0-9506242-2-5.

There is no doubt that to have the proceedings of a meeting which took place in September 1987 ready for publication in the following April is a considerable achievement. Moreover, by selecting the papers the editor has been able to create a sense of continuity and organisation which go some way to make this feel more like a book than a simple record. Of course the sometimes rhetorical approach reflects the fact that these were all presentations directed at a live MLSSO audience. Nevertheless, there is a heartening measure of sound common sense and seriousness of purpose evident here. Quality control and assurance are one of the means by which the laboratory itself is directed and controlled and anyone interested in exercising this would do well to take the matter seriously.

IAJ CAVILL

Modern Trends in Human Leukemia VII. New Results in Clinical and Biological Research including Pediatric Oncology, Haematology and Blood Transfusion. Vol. 31. Eds. R Neth, RC Gallo, MF Greaves, H Kabisch. (Pp 526; soft cover DM 248.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-17754-X.

This volume contains all the material presented at the Seventh Wilsede Meeting which took place in June 1986. It is a collection of over 100 short papers from a wide variety of groups working predominantly in West Europe and America. They are collected under the headings of leukaemia diagnosis and therapy, cell biology, immunology, and virology. As all the papers present recent research of the numerous groups, many overlap, and this volume must be considered very much a reference work to be dipped into to obtain material which was highly topical in 1986, and which two years later can be better placed in perspective. There are also included the excellent review lectures from the meeting from zur Hassen on tumour