Book reviews

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A Handbook of Mortuary Practice and Safety for Anatomical Pathology Technicians. (Pp 90; £4.20 plus postage & packing). The Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. 1992. ISBN 0-9514655-1-1.

This is a good little book and priced so that you should buy one for each of your anatomical pathology technicians. If anything lets it down, it is the section on chemical hazards which is not so practically orientated as the rest of the book. Furthermore, it lapses badly into COSHHese: for example, the reader is expected to know what TWA stands for (it is not explained). In a random survey carried out in our hospital five out of five histopathologists and nine out of 10 MLSOs thought it stood for Trans World Airlines and had never heard of Time Weighted Averages.

AC HUNT

Medical Microbiology. 14th ed. Ed D Greenwood, R Slack, J Peutherer. (Pp 850; Illustrations 278; £24.95). Churchill Livingstone. 1992. ISBN 0-443-04256-X.

This is yet another text book emanating from the Nottingham stable of medical microbiology. What began as "Mackie and McCartney", originally published in 1925, progressed to a two-part 12th edition in the 1970s where Part I was devoted to the concept of medical microbiology and its complex association with disease. Part II concentrated on the laboratory aspects of medical microbiology. This volume represents the latest part I production, with 50 different contributors (48 from the United Kingdom and two from the United States), and 68 different chapters. The chapters are divided into six sections: microbial biology; infection and immunity; bacterial pathogens and associated diseases; viral pathogens and associated diseases; fungal pathogens and parasitic infections (both protozoa and helminths) and finally diagnosis, treatment, and control of infection. The book is well written and the text and illustrations easy on the eye. The editors are to be congratulated on getting 50 different authors, and their associated different pecadillos, to the market place. It has must to commend it to both medical students and trainee medical microbiologists alike. However, its price may deter many students from purchasing it, but as the old adage says, "You get what you pay for".

RC SPENCER

Clinical and Experimental Toxicology of Organophosphates and Carbamates. B Ballantyne, TC Marrs. (Pp 641; £170). Butterworth-Heinemann Ltd. 1992.

Acetylcholine and the cholinesterases, and methods and consequences of their antagonism, inhibition, and reactivation underpin much of the history of pharmacology, pharmacogenetics, the pesticide industry, and chemical warfare, as well as being involved in tens (United Kingdom) to thousands (South East Asia) of poisonings each year. There should be no doubt about the scientific importance of the theme of this weighty monograph.

The contents cover, in turn, the basic science, neurotoxicity, other forms of toxicity, exposure at work and in the field, protection and monitoring, clinical features and treatment. Each section comprises several chapters which give proper weight to clinical disorders and their treatment, biochemical features, including diagnostic methods, pathology and occupational exposure, as well as more basic information about enzyme inhibition and activation, and environmental and experimental toxicology. Suitably mingled is much about almost all the OP and carbamate pesticides now in use in industry and in the clinic.

The editors have skilfully controlled a very large set of expert authors to produce a comprehensive, practical, and very useful book, which will be of value to the laboratory and clinical scientist in hospitals and in the field, as well as providing plenty of material for researchers and students. It should be bought as that unusual combination—a readable reference source and practically useful though specialised book.

AD DAYALL

Chemistry and Biology of N-nitroso Compounds. Cambridge Monographs on Cancer Research. W Lijinsky. (Pp 464; \$95). Cambridge University Press. 1992. ISBN 0-521-34629-0.

This book is one of a series. Dr Lijinsky has produced a comprehensive tome covering virtually all aspects of the chemistry, including analytical chemistry, of the N-nitroso compounds. Anyone with an interest in either organic chemistry or cancer would benefit from dipping into this book. However, I have to say that the practical clinical pathologist who wishes to restrict his reading to matter directly connected to his work would find little of relevance to day to day practice in this book. Examination candidates concerned about questions on carcinogenesis should read chapter 2 which is a useful synopsis on the occurrence, formation, and detection of N-nitroso compounds. The main readership will be professional toxicologists, those working for regulatory agencies and experimental pathologists. I do not see this book, excellent though it is, forming part of the library of the working clinical pathologist in any discipline.

ARW FORREST

Bladder Biopsy Interpretation. Biopsy Interpretation Series. Lucien E Nochomovitz. (Pp 239; \$99.00.) Raven Press. 1992. ISBN 0-88167-878-3.

This is a companion volume to Jonathan Epstein's excellent *Prostatic Biopsy*

Interpretation of the same series and compares favourably. The layout of material covered is conventional: proliferative and metaplastic conditions, inflammations, and tumours, benign and malignant, epithelial and non-epithelial but is none the worse for that. There is also a short introductory chapter written in conjunction with a urologist which addresses the indications and methods of bladder biopsy, technical methods used, and the wording of reports. I agree that pathologists should be fully conversant with clinical practice, but much of this chapter is rather simplistic and pedantic (a further plea for more information on request forms) and is out of place in a specialised text.

Text and illustrations are, on the whole, excellent and there is a full and up-to-date bibliography. My only criticism is of a certain lack of balance which appears to reflect the author's interests—or those of his pupils.

Schistosomiasis is an important cause of urological problems worldwide but I doubt whether it generates many problems of bladder biopsy interpretation and I am quite sure that this is NOT the text in which to describe the life cycle of this organism; this description must also have bored the author and/or proof reader as one sentence is repeated on successive pages (44 and 45). Similarly, a detailed discussion of the biochemistry of ABO blood groups in relation to prognosis of bladder cancer is misplaced, especially as the technique has never really established itself in clinical practice.

Elsewhere, there is much to admire: the common confusion between cystitis cystica and cystitis glandularis is discussed as is the problematical concept of papilloma. Other statements are more contentious. I am not convinced that all longstanding metaplastic conditions are the forerunner of the corresponding carcinoma and I had also not come across the term "mixed transitional cell carcinoma" for those tumours with conspicuous glandular or squamous differentiation—no reference is given for this term.

Initially, I had been dismayed to see the length of the list of acknowledgments for material used in this book, expecting the author of a book of this nature to have seen and reported most of the conditions discussed. However, this concern was soon dispelled on reading the volume and with the few caveats mentioned above I am happy to recommend it and to have it on my book shelf for reference and day-to-day use. With its ample illustrations and numerous references it is probably the most useful text on bladder pathology currently available for day-to-day diagnostic work.

ID ANSELL

Greenfield's Neuropathology. 5th edn. Ed J Hume Adams, LW Duchon. (Pp 1557; £45.) Edward Arnold. 1992. ISBN 0-340-54629-8

This useful fifth edition will be widely read. The index is exhaustive and the references, if not up to 1992, are ample. There are now 27 expert contributors—two of them the editors—including one of the best, Oppenheimer, who died recently. The book, apart from anything else, reflects the development of neuropathology. The only principal subject that is missing is tumours.

That is covered by a separate book also published by Arnold, Russell, and Rubinstein, which reached its fifth edition in 1989; that was written by the late Rubinstein.

When I bought the reissue of the first edition early in my career, it was a *sine qua non*. There were then a few volumes on neuropathology in Germany and, in the late sixties and seventies, there appeared only once three volumes of Minckler—very good books. Nowadays, there are many books that include neuropathological topics and a few others that are devoted solely to neuropathology. *Greenfield's Neuropathology* remains the standard to turn to first for neuropathologists and for all others concerned with the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles. Those interested in a particular topic must not neglect other up to date sources that may deal with it in greater detail: papers, chapters and books, not always referred to or found here. I wonder what a young reader could make of neuropathology without a grounding in the so-called neurosciences and in neuroanatomy.

There is the small matter of considerable cost. I hope that this book will be available to those interested in departmental and other libraries, but I do not think that all individuals, for example, all young general pathologists will need to buy it—in many cases because they would not be able to afford to—good as it is.

I JANOTA

**Quantitative Cyto- and Histoprogno-
sis in Breast Cancer.** PJ Van Diest, JPA Baak. (Pp 212; \$131.50.) Elsevier. 1992. ISBN 0-444-89374-1

This book is an updated version of Dr Paul van Diest's PhD thesis *Quantitative Cyto- and Histoprogno-
sis in breast cancer* which describes the use of morphometry, stereology, flow cytometry, digital image processing, syntactic analysis and artificial intelligence.

The introduction gives a brief but comprehensive overview of the currently available prognostic factors in breast cancer. Many methods of quantifying these factors are described and include basic morphometry, DNA flow cytometry, and the measurement of immunohistochemical techniques for tumour markers and oncoproteins. This chapter also introduces the concept of mitotic activity index and the multivariate prognostic index which form the basis of the book.

A chapter on methodology includes a description of some of the basic techniques that are often overlooked. The remainder of the book centres largely on applications. These are well described and well illustrated with numerous tables of data and survival curves. The nature of the work means that there is some repetition in the text and in the references and as a result the book is not particularly easy to read.

It is not a priority first buy for a departmental library. However, for anyone having a specific interest in the quantitation of breast cancer, the effort of reading it will provide much information and is worth purchasing if you can afford more than £70.

The book will be most useful for scientists starting research into quantitative microscopy of breast cancer for it is a comprehensive review and very well referenced.

C SOWTER

**Pathological Basis of the Connective
Tissue Diseases.** DL Gardner. (Pp 1050; £145.) Edward Arnold. 1992. ISBN 0-713-14548-X

This well produced book is a sequel to Professor Gardner's original, smaller, very useful book. After using it for about a month it is clear that Professor Gardner and his associate are to be congratulated on producing the new Bible of connective tissue disease (excluding neoplasms). It is useful at consultant level for references which are up-to-date and extensive and for junior staff working for their membership exams. I also think it will be valuable to those needing a pathological basis for MRCP.

In the first part are the principles of the biology of cells, tissues, and organs concerned with connective tissue diseases. The second part concerns the mechanism of connective tissue disease, and the third part, which is probably the most useful to practising pathologists, refers to the pathology of biopsies and specimens. It is nearly unfaultable. Although the pictures are all black and white, for most pathologists this will not be a draw-back. X-rays, tables, histopathology, microscopy and macroscopy pictures are excellent. The text is written by those who understand clearly the problems presented daily in reporting. I would compare this book to the similar excellent book on soft tissue tumours by Enzinger and Weiss. I find I use Gardner's book in parallel with this latter book. I have only two negative comments: cartilaginous according to three dictionaries is spelt cartilaginous (ie, not containing an e) and the book is no light-weight to carry.

There are few books these days which are as useful as often as this one, and I would strongly recommend it.

CM STARKIE

**Problem Solving in Immuno-
haematology.** 4th edn. Ed IA Shulman. (Pp 191; \$34.00.) Raven Press. 1992. ISBN 0-89189-321-0

This excellent short book, now in its fourth edition, presents a wide range of immuno-haematological problems in an entertaining self-assessment format. It has nine chapters covering the processing of donor blood, compatibility testing, antibody identification, blood component inventories, investigation of transfusion reactions, selection of blood for neonatal transfusion, Rh immune globulin, antenatal testing and diagnosis of haemolytic disease of the newborn, and plasma transfusions. I would have liked the problems associated with autoantibodies and autoimmune haemolytic anaemia to have been considered in greater detail in a tenth chapter. However, each section provides a surprising amount of information; a sort introduction is followed by a series of exercises aimed at covering the most recent advances and important problems in that area. After attempting an exercise, the reader can turn to the author's detailed answer and discussion. The book is intended to give clinical and laboratory haematologists a better understanding of the kinds of problems encountered in transfusion medicine and how they may be solved. It succeeds admirably at a very reasonable price and is fun to use; I strongly recommend it.

RJ SOKOL

Notices

Diagnostic Medical Mycology

A one week lecture and practical course on the laboratory diagnosis of fungal infections is to be held in Leeds, commencing 19 April 1993. This established course is intended for MLSOs and medical graduates working in diagnostic laboratories and is organised by the British Society for Mycopathology.

Course fee (excluding accommodation) £275 + VAT.

Further details may be obtained from Dr E G V Evans, PHLS Mycology Reference Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

Nottingham National Breast Screening Training Centre

Fine needle aspiration cytology of the breast

University Hospital, Nottingham, 29
and 30 March 1993

This is a course in diagnostic cytology suitable for consultants, senior registrars, and registrars in pathology and MLSOs. The programme is designed as (i) a comprehensive course for those new to breast cytopathology; and (ii) an update course dealing with new advances and problems in cytology.

This latter section is part of the comprehensive course, but is also available as a one day option for those with experience in breast cytology who require an update style course.

Course fees on application. Residential or non-residential options available.

For registration forms and further information, please contact: Mrs B Price, Training Co-ordinator, Nottingham National Breast Screening Training Centre, City Hospital, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB. Telephone (0602) 691689. Fax (0602) 627707.

Association of Clinical Pathologists Junior Membership

Junior membership of the Association is available to medical practitioners who have been engaged in the practice of pathology for a period of less than four years. Junior members are able to remain in this category for a maximum of six years or on the attainment of consultant status. The annual subscription is £34 for those resident in the United Kingdom and £65 for those overseas. The annual subscription may be claimed against tax.

Junior members receive the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* each month. Other benefits are reduced registration fees to attend ACP scientific meetings, all the documents regularly sent to full members of the Association including *ACP News*, which has a regular column for juniors, and the twice yearly summary of pathology courses included in the ACP programme of postgraduate education. Junior members have their own representative body, the Junior Members' Group, which has a direct input to Council.

For Junior Membership apply to: The Honorary Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, 221 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. (0273) 561188.