
This volume is one of the monographs on pathology of the International Academy of Pathology. The main editor is a distinguished pathologist and an authority on platelet research. The chapters, all by different authors, are expansions of lectures given at a course entitled 'Pathologic physiology and anatomy of the platelet'. The individual chapters are all quite short and cover almost every aspect of the subject, from the origin of the platelets as cytoplasmic fragments of the megakaryocyte to the involvement of platelets in disease and the clinical evaluation of platelet function. The quality of the chapters varies considerably, both in writing and in content selection; this is inevitable in such a collection. Some contributions, particularly on more fundamental aspects, do not relate confirmed observations on platelets sufficiently to analogous observations made with other types of cell.

Recognition of the involvement of platelets in several important clinical conditions, eg, in homograft rejection, has led to a remarkable acceleration in research on platelets and understanding of their functioning. This in turn has caused the appearance in the last few years of many books and review articles on platelets, most of which are more specialized and less comprehensive than this one. Therefore, this volume is likely to appeal less to specialists than to general, particularly medical, pathologists, as well as to haematologists and to those concerned with medical and surgical problems of haemostasis and blood transfusion. The book is as up to date as can be expected (the publication date is 1971); it is well produced with clear illustrations and has a comprehensive index.


This book gives a comprehensive list of agents causing consolidation of the lungs. A brief description is given of the nature of the agent, its laboratory isolation and confirmation, the clinical features, and treatment.

Sadly the problems associated with the pneumonias are almost totally omitted. For a whole book devoted to the subject of pneumonia, there is only passing reference to pathogenesis or to discussion upon the various ways in which invading organisms may initiate 'pneumonic' inflammation in the lung. The practical aspects of the problems of managing the acutely ill patient with a pneumonia are also largely ignored. There is, for instance, no informed discussion on the choice of antibiotics before bacterial identification, or the criteria for assuming that the sputum culture results reported from the laboratory, do or do not reflect the causal agent. The chapter on allergic pneumonias is particularly disappointing in that its excessive brevity has resulted in a number of misleading statements.

Book reviews


Modern methods of purification and identification have put the chemistry, biochemistry, and chemical pathology of the glycoproteins on a sound basis. This volume records on the Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Red Cross Scientific Symposium dedicated to Professor Neuburger, who has continued to make major contributions to the subject since he isolated a pure glycopeptide from albumin more than 30 years ago.

Although the Symposium was mainly concerned with glycoproteins as they occur in the blood cells, and, among other topics considered, immunoglobulin structure, surface membranes, and glycopeptide hormones other glycoproteins also received attention, eg, those of epithelial secretions, connective tissue intercellular matrix, and collagen. Not surprisingly this volume will, therefore, be of interest to a wide group of workers including haematologists, immunologists, oncoologists, endocrinologists, virologists, and biochemists. It defines present knowledge as well as lack of knowledge of these important compounds. The publication within one year of the contributions of experts and their discussions make the volume a useful, up-to-date account of the subject.

C. H. GRAY


In entitling this work Exfoliative Cytology, the author invites comparison with the many outstanding texts that now exist.

The first chapter presents an account of the morphology and chemistry of the malignant cell. Two more chapters, about half the book, are devoted to the female genital and respiratory tracts. Two brief chapters describe the problems in examining other body fluids, and the author summarizes his conclusions in a final chapter.

The illustrations are in black and white.

In his own words, he has attempted to 'review the present position of exfoliative cytology both from the technical laboratory aspect and from the point of view of its practical value to clinical work based on the experience of running a large cytology department both for hospital patients and for the general population of the area'.

Unfortunately the reviewer believes the author has fallen victim to his own ambition—there is much that is useful and of interest, but the monograph cannot be recommended as a standard text for the tyro in exfoliative cytological practice.

M. LEVENE

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G. V. R. BORN

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