
Originally published in Sweden, this English edition has been revised and updated and follows an earlier monograph on blood coagulation also co-edited and distributed by KABI.

A short review of the history of plasma protein chemistry introduces the reader to chapters on lipid and other transport proteins, immunological mechanisms including transplantation and oncology, coagulation and fibrinolysis, with a final chapter on plasma proteins as clinical diagnostic aids.

The editors do not claim that this is a textbook and point out themselves that it is unbalanced. This is particularly evident when the chapters on Blood Group Serology and Coagulation and Fibrinolysis are compared; the former appears to be aimed at the pathology student, and the latter at the specialist. There are a number of text errors, some legends lack sufficient detail, and a number of methodologies briefly referred to in the text are un referenced.

This book is a valuable collection of information on many aspects of plasma proteins and should prove useful not only to workers in this field but also to trainee pathologists and interested clinicians.

BM SLAVIN


These four volumes are taken from a total collection of 12 volumes covering the proceedings of the 12th International Cancer Congress in Buenos Aires in 1978. They are most welcome since many people felt unable to travel to Argentina, either because of the distance involved or for political reasons. (An alternative conference was held in Paris.)

Inevitably the standard of the papers is uneven, and it would be impossible to list the presentations in a short book review. But the range is comprehensive from the epidemiology of oesophageal cancer in Iran and South Africa to some biological work on cyclic nucleotides in Colorado.

In the gynaecological volume, 35 papers are presented. Some of the papers mention the problems of the FIGO staging system and illustrate the mammoth task of collecting adequate numbers of each stage and sub-stage in any particular series. It was disappointing that so few papers were devoted to ovarian cancer, the commonest cause of gynaecological death in women. Again two of those presented were not in English and have not been given English abstracts.

Volume II on Cancer Control is of great interest in view of the controversy in the UK over the value of public cancer educational programmes. The complete collection of papers must form an essential part of any oncological library. The format is in typescript rather than bookprint, presumably for rapid publication, but the volumes are beautifully bound.

WS LOWRY

Book reviews


Novak's Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology has over the years acquired a worldwide reputation and has come to be revered by many histopathologists. This, the eighth edition, while still giving a wide coverage of the subject, including a new section by Pauerstein on the pathology of the placenta, invites criticism on a variety of counts. The photomicrographs, although liberally illustrating the text, are in many instances pale, indistinct, and of poor quality. The references are all too frequently incomplete and inaccurate, and many modern publications are omitted; comparatively little attention is paid to European literature. With regard to individual chapters, the section on vulval dystrophies confuses the issue as much as ever and ignores the simplified nomenclature developed by the International Society for the Study of Vulval Diseases. Although not overlooked in the chapter on the cervix, modern concepts of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) and its role in the natural history of cervical carcinoma are not given the prominence they deserve. Four alternative classifications of ovarian tumours are offered; that recommended by the WHO, however, is dismissed as clinically unhelpful, an attitude which seems highly contentious and difficult to defend.

This edition does not, I feel, enhance the former reputation of the book and compares indifferently with other recent publications on the same subject.

JOW BEILBY

The Megaloblastic Anaemias. 2nd ed. I Chanarin. (Pp ix + 783; illustrated; £52.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

As Dr Chanarin mentions in his preface to this second edition, there have been considerable advances in information in this field. The text has been rewritten with the inclusion of a colour plate, and
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