

Radioimmunoassay of Gut Regulatory Peptides. Ed SR Bloom and RG Long. (Pp 194; illustrated; £10.50.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1982.

This multi author book describes one expert laboratory's integrated approach to the assay of 13 naturally occurring gut regulatory peptides. It is based on teaching programmes on the methodology of radioimmunoassay techniques in use there; indeed the book might be described as an expanded methods section for the many papers on gut hormone physiology and pathology already published by this group. The text falls into two parts. One part deals briefly with principles and provides method details which are common to the assay of all 13 peptides. It also includes a description of the precautions taken to ensure assay validity. Much of this material is handed down as lore in established assay laboratories and it is useful to have it collected here. Thus there is a discussion of conditions for storing tissues for extraction and of non-specific plasma effects which may interfere in assays. In the other part, substances and their assay are considered individually with sections on gastrin, cholecystokinin, secretin pancreatic and enteroglucagons, pancreatic polypeptide, gastric inhibitory polypeptide, motilin, vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP), bombesin, somatostatin, neurotensin, and substance P. For each substance the book also includes information on the chemistry, physiology, and pathology as well as the laboratory's estimates of plasma and tissue concentrations. Realistically the authors note that differences between reagents in use in different centres are associated with variability between estimates obtained. A glossary provides some unusual definitions but is a feature which may be appreciated by non-medical readers. The presentation is good and the reviewer has few quibbles. One is that although the VIP assay described "provides an assay range for plasma of 5 to 500 pmol/l" estimates are reported in the range 0.5 to 4 pmol/l. Another is that it is surprising if an assay with a working range 2 to 200 pmol/l plasma is able to detect "changes of as little as 1 pmol/l with 95% confidence" overall parts of the dose range of the assay. The book is an authoritative report and a practical guide to one laboratory's present methods for estimating an important group of substances. It will be helpful to any one needing to set up or evaluate assays for the gut regulatory peptides and usefully summarises the chemistry and methodology

used by one laboratory to elucidate an area where recent advances have been made in endocrinology.

P MARY COTES

Lymphomas other than Hodgkin's Disease.

Ed AE Stuart, AG Stansfeld, I Lauder. (Pp 69; illustrated; £12.50.) Oxford University Press. 1981.

This is a welcome addition to a pathologist's bookshelf and particularly to one training for examinations as it covers one of the confused subjects in pathology at the moment.

The book gives a clear resumé of non-Hodgkin lymphoma classification. It begins with cytological recognition and continues with short accounts of the different classes of lymphoma according to the British National Lymphoma Pathology group. Alternative nomenclature allowing comparison with other classifications is given with each type of lymphoma. The book concludes with accounts of benign conditions which are commonly mistaken for lymphoma.

There are many illustrations with good quality black and white photomicrographs of each entity described. One would however like to have at least one colour plate to show the plasmacytoid characteristics which do not show very well in black and white photographs.

The book is well bound and is hard backed, and makes it a well recommended hand book for the trainee and practising pathologist

JP MADDA

Atlas of Pulmonary Pathology. K Morgenroth, MT Newhouse, and D Nolte. (Pp 232; illustrated; £48.) Butterworths. 1982.

This is the second atlas in a series whose distinguishing feature is that they include three dimensional drawings to illustrate gross and microscopic anatomy. The atlas is not intended to be comprehensive but aims to provide insights into aspects of pulmonary pathophysiology.

The photographs of gross pathology, light microscopy of paraffin, and plastic sections, as well as scanning and transmission electron micrographs, are of an extremely high quality. The drawings are novel but by and large add little. The accompanying text is a good but sparse introduction to pulmonary pathology. It does not match the quality of the pictures

though it is refreshingly functional. There is no index.

The standard of illustration in this book may well seduce bookshop browsers into an immediate personal purchase. I think it would be more cost effective to induce the librarian to buy a copy and then borrow his.

G SLAVIN

Advances in the Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 98. Ed Roland B Scott. (Pp 180; illustrated; £17.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

A compilation of papers presented at the Tenth Annual Postgraduate Conference on Sickle Cell Disease at the Howard University Centre for Sickle Cell Disease, in September 1981 is contained in this book, and there are 14 papers covering different aspects of sickle cell disease. Four papers deal directly or indirectly with prenatal diagnosis, and include a review of DNA restriction analysis for the prenatal diagnosis, a discussion of advantages and disadvantages of amniocentesis and fetocopy, a review of counselling required, and an appraisal of evaluation of genetic counsellors. Two articles cover some newer aspects of the pathophysiology of sickle cell disease, and four discuss a variety of management problems: pain, leg ulcer, pneumococcal vaccine, and overall management. Finally, blood transfusion in sickle cell disease is covered by four interesting articles including one on the use of cell separators and one on blood substitutes.

The book should appeal to a wide range of staff, medical and nursing, as well as the laboratory scientists. The variety of approaches is the book's main attraction but also — to a certain extent — its failing as the articles do not go into sufficient depth to appeal to the more specialised expert.

MILICA BROZOVIC

Prenatal Diagnosis and Mechanisms of Teratogenesis. Part A of Annual Review of Birth Defects 1981. March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Original Article Series, Vol 18. No 3A, 1982. (Pp 215; illustrated; £29.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation hold an annual conference the pro-

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