Letters

ported by some experimental work.1,2

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References


Book reviews


The authors set out, according to their Introduction, to provide a book for pathologists and clinicians to help them recognise and classify the histopathology of endometrial disease. Their first objective is well served by the selection and quality of the photomicrographs. These are almost all excellent, with good choice of material, colour balance, and focus. The text of the book for the most part is adequate and is intended to be secondary to the illustrations, but suffers on several points. There are spelling mistakes, the terminology used in some of the descriptive passages is idiosyncratic (for example, moderate adenomatous hyperplasia of endometrium is equated with atypical hyperplasia), and there are solecisms such as undifferentiated adenocarcinoma. Large amounts of space are wasted, with only four lines of text on some pages. Nevertheless, the illustrations in the book might usefully accompany a textbook of gynaecological pathology in departmental libraries.

D LOWE


Dr Enquist is the Director of a department of critical care medicine in Copenhagen, and in this book he provides a concise guide for the metabolic management of critically ill patients. The text includes short sections on the underlying physiological principles which enable the user to understand the bases of practical procedures. Fluid and electrolyte balance in numerous clinical situations are considered and there are useful practical details on enteral and parenteral feeding. Paediatric as well as adult problems are considered in detail.

Fluid and electrolyte balance is well served on the shelves of booksellers and this book has to compete in a very tough market. Those revising for examinations or those wanting a handy pocket sized electrolyte “prompt” supported by nutritional feeding, however, would be well advised to consider this useful book.

Brenda Slavin


It is twelve years since the last edition of this popular text book was published. This new volume benefits enormously from the contributions of Professor Bernard Knight whose writing has transformed Part II of the book dealing with the law relating to the practice of medicine, which is written with authority and style.

The first part of the book dealing with forensic pathology is regrettably very much the same and an opportunity to alter the emphasis on various topics has been missed. For example, there is still far too much on firearm and electrical injuries but no separate chapter relating to road traffic accidents. Some of the material is frankly dated—for example, the chapter on criminal abortion.

The book itself is almost the same number of pages and most of the photographs are identical with only very few additions. The chapter on cruelty to children suffers very much from a lack of photographs to illustrate the text. It is a beautifully produced volume but the price has risen from £12 in 1973 to £95, and some may find it compares less than favourably with the new edition of Taylor’s Principles and Practice of Medical Jurisprudence which covers much of the same ground, and it must be said in some areas, to better effect, for only £32. So regrettably, only a qualified welcome for the new Polson, Gee and Knight.

HRM Johnson


Biological approaches to carcinogenesis are particularly fruitful as long as the molecular mechanisms are not understood. The concept of two stage carcinogenesis, initiation, and promotion remains a valuable source of ideas, even more so in terms of phenomena to be investigated.

This book is the proceedings of a conference in 1983, organised by the IARC, on promotion—that is, the series of at least three steps between electrophilic attack on DNA (initiation) and the appearance of frank tumours. There is much display of recent biochemical knowledge about phorbol esters, protein kinase C and their secondary effects on cells, several accounts of a variety of changes in cells in vivo and in vitro, an an intriguing epidemiological attempt to suggest that the process of promotion is important in man. Like all sets of conference papers it is both worthy and repetitious, but it is also a unique and worthwhile point of entry into an area of pathobiology that is little understood and probably very important.

AD Dayan


It is a great pleasure to review this book edited by two such well known haematologists. Walter Bowie has generously dedicated the book to the memory of Alan Sharp, who died during its preparation. We will always remember him, however, for his friendship and personal qualities.

In the rapidly growing fields of haemostasis and thrombosis the book readily updates our knowledge. There are excellent introductory chapters on platelets, coagulation, and fibrinolysis by leaders in their individual fields. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on “Hereditary and acquired bleeding disorders” by Rizza and
the well written chapter on thrombosis by Lowe. This book will be of value to all interested in the mechanisms and treatment of disorders of coagulation, platelets, and fibrinolysis but will be particularly used by those wishing a painless overview of this rapidly growing subject.

C FORBES

Notice

Association of Clinical Pathologists Research Award—Amended Rules

1 Council of the Association has decided to award an annual prize of £250 for the best paper presented by a member under the age of 35 years at the Autumn General meeting of the Association.

2 The prize will be awarded by Council on the recommendation of a panel of adjudicators from the Education Committee at their January meeting following presentations. Criteria for assessing the merit of entries will include originality, scientific importance and lucidity of presentation. The award will be made at the next Spring general meeting of the Association.

3 Papers must be presented by members or junior members normally under the age of 35 years on the last date for receipt of entries (rule 5). A paper must not have been presented before, except to an ACP branch meeting.

4 Work that had been carried out by more than one person must be accompanied by a statement of the extent of the contribution to the work made by the members presenting the paper. Joint work is acceptable provided that the substantial part of the work was carried out by the candidate for the prize. Others involved in the project, for example, a supervisor, must indicate their approval in writing.

5 In order to give the papers of candidates for the prize a degree of priority on the programmes of meetings, a member presenting a paper for consideration for the Prize must give written notice to that effect to the Meetings Secretary. The last date for receipt of this notice will be 1st May preceding the Autumn meeting. An abstract (about 250 words in length) of the paper must be sent with the notice.

Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.


