

Book reviews

The Cytopathology of Esophageal Carcinoma. Precancerous Lesions and Early Cancer. Yi-Jing Shu. (Pp 100; £23.50.) Blackwells. 1985. ISBN 0-89352-171-X.

This slim volume gives a fascinating account of the use of an abrasive balloon technique in China for the diagnosis of oesophageal carcinoma. The primary purpose was early cancer detection while the second objective was a study of the natural history of this disease. In China oesophageal carcinoma is the second commonest cause of cancer death, three times as common as lung cancer in men and four times as common as breast cancer in women. The book discusses aetiological factors, predominantly dietary, describes the author's collection technique and illustrates with good photomicrographs the cytological and pathological appearances. The success of the method in early diagnosis and in the study of dysplasia is demonstrated. The author deals only with squamous cell carcinoma and does not cover lower oesophageal lesions. It is in these lesions, comparatively inaccessible to biopsy, and in malignant strictures for which the balloon technique is unsuitable, that cytology can be most valuable in Britain. The book therefore has only limited relevance for the routine diagnostic cytopathologist, although it elegantly illustrates once more the potential of cytology as a screening technique.

HELENA E HUGHES

Interpretation of Endometrial Biopsies. 2nd ed. Biopsy Interpretation Series. Ancel Blaustein. (Pp 304; \$42.50.) Raven Press. 1985.

This latest addition to the *Biopsy Interpretation Series* is a short monograph on the histological features likely to be found in endometrial curettings. It is clearly written and describes the changes in the menstrual cycle in health and disease, endometritis, hyperplasia and carcinoma of the endometrium, and sarcomas of the uterus. One or two of the tabulated lists of conditions could be confusing—inactive endometrium is classified as a subdivision of proliferative endometrium and endolymphatic stromal myosis is given as a separate entity from endometrial stromal sarcoma—but the text clarifies the problems adequately.

In his preface to the first edition the late Dr Blaustein writes that he intended the

book as a primer and an atlas of endometrial lesions. As an atlas I think the work fails. The focus of many of the half tone figures is only approximate and some are quite pointless. Many references are rather dated, and there are numerous irritating omissions, such as final page numbers, year of publication, and even journal name. If a primer on gynaecological pathology is needed it would be better to read Dr Blaustein's larger work.

DAVID LOWE

Organisation and Practice in Tuberculosis Bacteriology. CH Collins, JM Grange, MD Yates. (Pp 125; £16.) Butterworths. 1985. ISBN 0 407 00296 0.

This description of the organisation and practice of a tuberculosis bacteriology laboratory is the complete bench manual. It presents in detail the methods to be used, the minor equipment required, and the formulae of media and reagents. It presents concisely and clearly the taxonomy of mycobacteria and describes a practical working classification. Furthermore, the clinical reasons for the investigations are presented, including those for the identification of species, drug sensitivity tests, and antibiotic assays. The details of the technical procedures used in the diagnosis and control of treatment of leprosy are also included.

The authors' life time experience of mycobacteria is clearly reflected in the discerning discussion of the different methods available and the problems of running a diagnostic laboratory service. This book should become essential reading for all microbiologists undertaking a diagnostic service for diseases caused by this genus, both in the United Kingdom and developing countries. A wide range of methods is presented to permit choices appropriate for the available financial resources.

JB SELKON

HLA and Disease Associations. Jawahar L Tiwari, Paul I Terasaki. (Pp 472; DM 236.) Springer-Verlag. 1985. ISBN 3-540-96081-3.

This collection of published reports, both positive and negative, on HLA antigen asso-

ciations covers more than 600 diseases, ranging from arthritis to zinc concentrations in red blood cells. Compiled with the aid of modern computer devices, it is a remarkable and useful addition to the rapidly growing literature on this fascinating topic. If you are about to begin a study on HLA and ingrowing toe nails consult this book first to see whether you have been anticipated (not as far as I could see, but dactylitis has been studied!) What you will find are brief summaries of the state of the art of many diseases, together with all the bibliography, amounting to over 4000 publications. There are introductory chapters on the HLA antigens, nomenclature, and data analysis but only the briefest of sections on possible mechanisms. In summary, this is an exhaustive source of facts but not a monograph. **Be, borrow, or buy it before you launch into an HLA association study and add yet another paper to the existing mountain.**

HEATHER M DICK

Notices

Supraregional Assay Service Protein Reference Units Handbook of Clinical Immunochemistry

This handbook is intended as a guide to the services available from the SAS Protein Reference Units. Since the establishment of the Supraregional Assay Service in 1974 the range of assays available at, and the number of requests made of, the SAS Protein Reference Units has increased considerably. Certain assays have been devolved to regional or district laboratories and new assays have been added to the repertoire. In addition to describing the assays available from the Units under the SAS, the handbook also describes the clinical indications for assays devolved from the SAS and the assays currently under development, which may be added to the repertoire in the future. Later sections describe the external quality assessment services that are available to laboratories doing immunochemistry and calibrants available from public source.

Copies (£6.00 inclusive of postage) are available from: The Director, Protein Reference Unit, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield S10 2JF.

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGISTS

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Junior membership of the Association is available to all trainees in pathology for up to six years after the start of training. The annual subscription is £15 and may be claimed against tax. All junior members receive copies of the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. Other benefits include membership of the Junior Members' Group and a regular junior members' newsletter; the ACP Newsletter and all other documents regularly sent to full members including the postgraduate education programme.

Junior membership normally leads to full membership of the Association, which represents medical pathologists in hospital practice.

Junior membership is not available to trainees overseas and those on short term training schemes in this country. Requests on an individual basis will be considered.

Apply to: Dr PP Anthony, Education Secretary, Postgraduate Medical School, Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5DW, Devon.

**Afternoon of gastrointestinal pathology
in honour of
Dr Basil C Morson,
VRD, MA, DM, FRCP, FRCS, FRCPath**

**Dr Basil Morson will retire from his post
as Consultant Pathologist to St Mark's
Hospital in November 1986.**

**In his honour a symposium on gastro-
intestinal pathology has been organised
through the pathology departments of St
Mark's and St Bartholomew's Hospitals.**

Speakers are:

**Dr DW Day;
Dr JR Jass;
Professor JE Lennard-Jones;
Dr DA Levison;
Dr AB Price;
Dr IC Talbot;
Dr GT Williams;
Professor NA Wright**

**The symposium will be held at: The Robin
Brook Centre, St Bartholomew's Hospi-
tal, London EC1, on Wednesday 12 No-
vember 1986, at 2 pm.**

Admission free.

BENJAMIN CASTLEMAN AWARD

The Benjamin Castleman Award is sponsored jointly by the Massachusetts General Hospital and the United States—Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology and is financed by contributions to a fund established by former students and trainees of Dr Castleman. This award will be presented at the annual meeting of the United States—Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology.

This award is granted for an outstanding paper in the field of human pathology published in English during the calendar year 1986. The subject may represent any topic in pathology but must be based on human material with emphasis on morphological or anatomical approaches. For papers with multiple authorship, only one author is eligible. The awardee must be a pathologist or pathologist in training who has not yet reached his 40th birthday in 1986. Papers by pathology residents, trainees, and fellows are encouraged. The prize will consist of \$1000 and a certificate (travel will not be paid).

Nominations should consist of twelve reprints (or preprints) of the manuscript and a letter attesting to the nominee's age, dates and places of residency training, and role in the investigation, if other than the first author.

Nominations should be submitted to: United States—Canadian Division, International Academy of Pathology, Building C, Suite B, 3515 Wheeler Road, Augusta, GA 30909.

Deadline for receipt of nominations is January 15, 1987.

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr David Melcher, Histopathology Department, Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE.

United States—Canada Division of the International Academy of Pathology

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois, from Sunday, March 8 to Friday March 13, 1987.

Scientific papers, poster sessions, 13 specialty conferences, and 44 short courses are scheduled: two special courses will be offered on diagnostic cellular and molecular pathology with Dr Benjamin Trump as course director and advances in the application of immunocytochemistry to diagnostic surgical pathology with Dr Cecilia Fenoglio-Preiser as course director.

A session on telepathology: delivery of pathology diagnostic services in the future will be presented by Dr RS Weinstein, and a special lecture, the changing faces of pathology and medicine, will be given by Dr Peter Ward.

Further details may be obtained from Dr Nathan Kaufman, Secretary-Treasurer, United States—Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology, Building C, Suite B, 3515 Wheeler Road, Augusta, Georgia 30909.

Royal Microscopical Society

ANNUAL HISTOCHEMISTRY MEETING

The annual meeting will be held at the School of Pharmacy, London, WC1 on Tuesday 6 January, 1987.

The meeting will include an address on: multiparameter cytochemistry: a new tool for pathology given by Professor JS Ploem. The rest of the meeting will be in the usual format of submitted papers (10 or 15 minutes' duration). Beginners "under 35 years of age who have not given more than two papers outside their own department"—may enter for the Viviane Maggi Prize.

Abstracts should be submitted by 31 October, 1986.

Further details and abstract forms are available from the Administrator, Royal Microscopical Society, 37/38 St Clements, Oxford, OX4 1AJ.