Matters arising


It is 11 years since the publication of the last edition of this book. This decade has seen rapid advances in many aspects of gastrointestinal pathology. Many of the advances have been made by the team of St Mark's Old Boys who now join the senior authors in the production of this edition.

The format is familiar with descriptive paragraphs, to instead); as aspects of the gut from oesophagus to anus. An additional section covers diseases of the peritoneum and there is an invaluable discussion which deals with gastrointestinal methods and general principles of examining and reporting gastrointestinal specimens. Without good preparations much pathology is doomed to be mediocre and it is apposite that this section is placed firmly at the front of the book.

Within each section the same systematic approach is followed—normal anatomy, embryology and developmental anomalies, inflammatory, granulomatous, neoplastic disorders, and neoplasms. The style is clear and succinct. It is remarkably uniform given that there are so many authors. The references are up to date and sufficient and include classic papers.

The standard of presentation of photographs and micrographs is up to the usual standard of the publishers, but the index in this edition is not so good as previously—try Paneth cells as a marker of its value.

So far so good. Clearly, those with old editions will want to replace them, but in this new Britain, what of market forces? There is a new competitor—Whitehead's multi-author "Oesophageal and Gastrintestinal Pathology" and its format allows more chapters on functional aspects and pathophysiology of gastrointestinal disease. I find it hard to choose either in preference to the other. "Inflammation of the proximal colon", and pathogens which make up about one third of diagnostic biopsy specimens would be remiss not to have both volumes as standards in the reporting room library.

Finally, the two senior authors have now retired. Their book is in good hands and they can look forward to the next edition.

BOOK REVIEWS


This book is an unillustrated compendium of mycoses in human and non-human infections given roughly equal prominence. It has a brief introduction about host defences against fungal infections. The varying immunodeficiency states are discussed in moderate detail with respect to individual infections.

The main sections are on candidiasis, cryptococcosis, aspergillosis, the phlycomycoses, and "others" including the chromomycoses. A chapter on antifungal agents, and a pre-publication addendum (written in May 1989) complete the monograph. We should be grateful to Dr Smith for his accumulation of data. Thirty seven per cent of the pages in his book are references (which total over 1800). Clinical, diagnostic, therapeutic, and taxonomic aspects of the mycoses are well tabulated.

If I have any criticisms—and perhaps the second edition can take note—the naming of references in the text blocks its flow (try numbers instead); and there is a lack of subheadings to guide the reader through the paragraphs, though the index is good. I shall find it very useful for information on clinical mycology.

S. B. LUCAS


This new edition of the atlas is very welcome. I am sure it will find its way into the collection of many general haematologists. The improvement in quality of reproduction of megaloblastic change, for example, is striking. The pictures of trypanosomes and morulae are almost as good as the view down a microscope. The section on storage diseases is a valuable reference source. Well done for including a film of atypical proteinoeinaemia (not included in another recently published atlas of haematology). All reviewers criticise some aspects of a book. The habit of calling chronic granulocytic leukaemia "adult type", presumably gastrointestinal parasites distinguish it from the confusingly named juvenile chronic myeloid leukaemia, fails to highlight the relative frequency of the former. Finally some photographs give the red cells a greenish hue—all taken by the same camera, since the foreign body in the optics leaves its "fingerprint" on them all. Minor carpings from a happy (re)viewer.

MM REID


This slim volume comprises six reviews, written in 1987/8, on different parasites from various disciplinary viewpoints. From the studies of histopathology, vagaries, the well illustrated account of the clinical pathology of onchocerciasis is the best, though much will be familiar to owners of the AFIP fascicles of 1976. The ultrastructure of Cryptosporidium in the human duodenum is probably widely used. The chapter on schistosomiasis in China is mainly epidemiological, and the aeological association with rectal (not colorectal) carcinoma is in question. An succinct clinicopathological presentation on intestinal capillaritis (not to be confused histologically with strongyloidiasis) which may be more widespread than we initially thought. The other reviews are a summary of the latent hypoozoite phase of relapsing human malaria; and (with an eye on future chemotherapies) a detailed account of the role of calcium/calmodulin functions in malarial parasites.

S. LUCAS


This book consists of a series of abstracts of recent scientific papers judged to be of interest to a general audience. Each abstract is followed by a paragraph or two prepared by one of the expert panel of editors commenting on the paper with regard to its importance and usually gives (as far as possible) references to support their comments. In general, the editors who are all based at the University of North Carolina have done a good job. There is a clear policy of grouping papers of similar interest together and they have succeeded in providing useful comment and criticism.

It is interesting to observe how many of the papers received are dependent on one or other of the technological advances which have been made in recent years with molecular biology particularly in evidence, and yet there is still a place for high quality formal descriptive papers.

I was intrigued by the fact that within a day or so of encountering my first case of Alagille's syndrome (syndromic paucity of interlobular bile ducts) I was reading the abstract of a relevant article in the "Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology". I think you will find this book very useful. Some of the papers are reviewed from the point of view that they are "incisive but short", others are "clear and comprehensive". I find the book difficult to read because it is so concentrated. I assume it is meant to be dipped into
Colour Atlas of Paediatric Haematology

MM Reid

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