

## BOOK REVIEWS

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**Autopsy in Epidemiology and Medical Research.** IARC Scientific Publications No 112. Ed E Riboli, M Delendi. (Pp 288; no price given.) ISBN 92-832-2112 5. 1991.

Writing and talking about the importance of the necropsy is a growth industry in histopathology. This collection of papers given at an international symposium in Trieste in 1989 is definitely for the aficionado. If at your next medical staff meeting you want to make an off-the-cuff reference to clinicopathological concordance and imaging techniques in Reykjavic or an analysis of necropsy and clinical diagnoses in a psychiatric hospital in Zagreb, this is your book.

Flippancy aside, this remarkable collection of papers shows how pathologists worldwide are concerned by the reduction in number of routine necropsies. They find the same sort of discrepancies between clinical and necropsy diagnoses, but it is depressing that none of the 27 papers comes from a clinical department. There are several good papers on the importance of necropsy in epidemiological studies, but hardly any on the importance of the necropsy in other forms of medical research. The reproduction of Rembrandt's *Anatomy Lesson* on the cover reminds us how dissection of the normal and the abnormal created the basis of modern medicine, but that was a long time ago.

ACHUNT

**Reaction Patterns of the Lymph Node. Part 2.** Reactions associated with Neoplasia and Immune Deficient States. Current Topics in Pathology. Ed E Grundmann, E Vollmer. (Pp 225; 88 figs; DM198.00.) Springer. 1991. ISBN 3-540-52288-3.

This book presents in six chapters of reviews and experimental information the reactions and processes observed in metastatic carcinoma (three chapters), primary immunodeficiency syndromes (one chapter), and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (two chapters).

The three chapters dealing with metastatic carcinoma, specifically (a) reaction patterns of lymph nodes and the development and spread of cancer, (b) patterns of fibronectin

induction in lymph nodes affected by metastatic growth of adenocarcinoma, and (c) macrophages/reticulum cells in early and late phases of lymphogeneous metastases, present in considerable detail experimental data on the patterns of early metastatic spread and formation of established colonies with respect to lymphoid and histiocytic reactions and fibronectin deposition. The detail would be of primary interest to those with a specialist interest in metastasis.

The chapter on primary immunodeficiency syndromes and their manifestations in lymph nodes is an extremely comprehensive detailed review of this complex subject, and is recommended to those with an interest in these rare conditions or as pre-exam reading.

The two chapters on AIDS deal with immunological dysregulation of lymph nodes and lymph node reaction patterns. Both subjects are dealt with in detail and would be a useful reference material for histopathologists dealing with lymph node biopsy specimens from patients with AIDS.

In conclusion, it is difficult to recommend this book to the jobbing clinical pathologist as large sections present detailed experimental results. The topics dealt with, although on the theme of lymph node reactions, are probably of interest to different specialty groups.

IO ELLIS

**Evans' Histological Appearances of Tumours.** 4th edn. DJB Ashley. (Pp 1088; £150.) Churchill Livingstone 1990. ISBN 0-443-02626-2.

The absence of any electron micrographs was a serious omission in the last edition of Evans, published in 1978. In this new and considerably enlarged edition this has been corrected with the addition of a special chapter which is, in effect, an excellent short atlas of tumour ultrastructure. Time marches on, however, and in the interim since the last edition immunohistochemical and, to a lesser extent, molecular techniques have radically changed the pathologist's approach to the diagnosis of tumours.

In the absence of even a gesture to either of these new techniques, this book cannot entirely be said "to be helpful to practising histopathologists and to their clinical colleagues in their daily work as well as to trainees and research workers" which is its stated aim. Sadly, it is not just that this new edition has not kept up with the times; the quality of the photomicrographs, never a strong point in previous editions, has deteriorated considerably. This is partly the responsibility of the publishers, and partly that of the author who has added many new figures, most of which are either poorly focused, unevenly illuminated, or both. The figures are, therefore, largely unhelpful to the pathologist indulging in "picture matching" and sometimes frankly misleading. This is true, too, of the text which somehow retains the flavour of the first (1956) edition both in style and content.

The task entailed in writing a book of this nature is now almost certainly beyond the capability of any single author. If there is to be another edition of Evans, and I doubt whether this is advisable, it will have to be a multi-authored, multivolume work which retains virtually none of the original text or

illustrations. Meanwhile, any pathologist contemplating buying this book would be better advised to spend £150 ensuring that his or her collection of fascicles of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology *Atlas of Tumor Pathology* is up to date.

PG ISAACSON

**Introduction to the Cellular and Molecular Biology of Cancer.** 2nd edn. Ed LM Franks, NM Teich. (Pp 558; soft cover £22.50) Oxford University Press 1991. ISBN 0-19-854734-3.

This is the second edition of a book which has proved to be a popular introductory text on the biology of cancer. In this second edition the authors have expanded some of the chapters where there have recently been important advances in our knowledge, but they have also added more information on viral and chemical carcinogenesis and corrected some errors present in the first edition.

The book is divided into 19 chapters, covering the complete spectrum of cancer research, with discussions of molecular changes through to a review of cancer epidemiology. The chapters concerned with chromosomal changes, the role of growth factors, and immunotherapy all appear to have been expanded since the first edition. Each chapter has a different author, but they are all experts in their field and overall the book is very readable.

The book might be of value to clinicians or pathologists who wish to learn about the current ideas concerning the underlying molecular mechanisms of malignant transformation of cells, as well as to molecular biologists who want to know more about cancer in general. I would, however, primarily recommend this book as an introductory text for those research workers or students approaching the study of cancer for the first time. This book contains many tables and figures which are clear and for the most part useful, and it is reasonably priced.

MH GOYNS

**The Metabolic and Molecular Basis of Acquired Disease. Vols 1 and 2.** Ed RD Cohen, B Lewis, KGMM Alberti, AM Denman. (Pp 2082; £175.) Baillière Tindall. 1990. Set: ISBN 0-7020-1493-1.

The fields of molecular biology and immunology are among the most rapidly expanding and exciting in current medicine. This text sets out to tie together advances in these newer disciplines to more traditional metabolic pathways across the whole spectrum of acquired disease. This is a daunting task, and to accomplish it the luminary editors have assembled an impressive array of some 158 authors from four continents. The contents are exhaustive and divided into five main sections dealing with basic mechanisms of disease, environmental aspects, acquired metabolic disease, molecular and metabolic aspects of "non-metabolic" disease, and finally a section covering retroviruses. A vast



## Introduction to the Cellular and Molecular Biology of Cancer

MH Goyns

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