

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

range of subjects is covered, from the more familiar to fascinating chapters dealing with molecular and metabolic aspects of aging and of space travel. Most topics are well covered by experts and the clarity of presentation and general high standard of writing is such that the text will be valuable to most medical postgraduate students.

There are always drawbacks to such large multi-author works. The time taken to assemble the text has dictated that many chapters have references no more recent than 1988, a clear failing in a book setting out to be "state of the art" and, for example, recent advances such as the possible role of *Helicobacter pylori* in peptic ulceration and use of monoclonal antibodies in endotoxic shock are barely mentioned, if at all. The general standard and adequacy of illustrations is also disappointing. There is more repetition between chapters than one would expect and although reiteration may be valuable as a teaching aid, it may also indicate a need for tighter editing.

Overall, this is a good worthwhile publication and will undoubtedly be a valuable reference source in any medical library. There is much here of interest and value to most pathologists and ward clinicians, though the breadth of subjects covered means at times fine detail is sacrificed. This and the prohibitive price may deter individual buyers.

RICHARD ANDREWS

Clinical Laboratory Tests. Values and Implications. (Pp 724; soft cover £15.50). Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Ltd. 1991. ISBN 0-87434-270-8.

This is a multidisciplinary handbook of laboratory investigations. The introduction provides valuable advice on patient preparation, sample collection, handling and transport—topics frequently neglected in books of this sort but an important potential source of invalid results which may not be apparent once the sample has reached the laboratory. The technique of venepuncture is described in detail, although a simple diagram would have enhanced the text.

The basis of each test, normal findings, and interpretation of abnormal results are discussed for each test, though unfortunately there are no references. Details of analytical methods are not included. Mass and SI units are used. The range of tests covered is vast: the foreword resorts to hyperbole and indicates that "virtually all clinically useful laboratory tests" are included, but while a random inspection yielded entries on antimicrobial antibodies, complement assays, serum ferritin, haemoglobin electrophoresis, lactose tolerance test, pleural biopsy, semen collection and stool culture, I searched in vain for any test of intestinal fat absorption, or pancreatic exocrine function. The only test indexed under congenital adrenal hyperplasia is measurement of serum testosterone; cholesterol is not indexed, and although total cholesterol is included in the tests, the description includes the statement, "total cholesterol is the only (form of) cholesterol routinely measured."

Nevertheless, there is much useful information here, and although individual laboratories should have their own handbooks of test protocols, this volume may find a place in the departmental library, particularly in multidisciplinary laboratories, as a source of information on less frequently requested tests.

WILLIAM MARSHALL

Systemic Pathology. 3rd edn. Vol. 5. **The Lungs.** Ed. B Corrin. (Pp 496; £75). Churchill Livingstone. 1991. ISBN 0-443-03094-4.

The pathology of the lungs and pleura is comprehensively covered in this volume, with most chapters having been written by Professor Corrin and Dr Addis, and a contribution on carcinoma from Dr Mooi (Division of Tumour Biology, Netherlands Cancer Institute). All that you would expect from such a textbook is here including initial chapters on normal structure and developmental disease. Everything I have looked up has been clearly and succinctly explained and I was particularly struck by the excellence of the many illustrations, including gross specimens, histology, and high quality electron micrographs. There are also several very clear and helpful line diagrams to illustrate the architectural changes in conditions such as bronchiectasis, emphysema, the various types of interstitial pneumonia and different patterns of pulmonary fibrosis. Rare conditions of a double-barrelled eponymous nature are included, but the approach is essentially practical, and where knowledge is doubtful or there are problems in diagnosis, this is stated. This book will be a "must" for those departments who are collecting the *Systemic Pathology* series but it also stands on its own as an excellent reference manual of pulmonary pathology.

JULIE CROW

Association of Clinical Pathologists

Junior Membership

Junior membership of the Association is available to medical practitioners who have been engaged in the practice of pathology for a period of less than four years. Junior members are able to remain in this category for a maximum of six years or on the attainment of consultant status. The annual subscription is £24 for those resident in the United Kingdom and £55 for those overseas. The annual subscription may be claimed against tax.

Junior members receive the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* each month. Other benefits are reduced registration fees to attend ACP scientific meetings, all the documents regularly sent to full members of the Association including *ACP News*, which has a regular column for juniors, and the twice yearly summary of pathology courses included in the ACP programme of postgraduate education. Junior members have their own representative body, the Junior Members' Group, which has a direct input to Council.

For Junior Membership apply to: The Honorary Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, School of Biological Sciences, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QG. (0273) 678435.

NOTICES

European Prevalence of Infection in Intensive Care Study

The EPIC Study International Advisory Committee is urging all Western European Intensive Care Units to take part in the European Prevalence of Infection in Intensive Care Study (The EPIC Study) on the 29 April 1992. Sponsored by Roussel Uclaf, further information is available from the EPIC Study Co-ordinator, Medical Action Communications, Action International House, Crabtree Office Village, Eversley Way, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey, TW20 8RY, UK.

Lung Pathology, London

June 1-4 1992

National Heart and Lung Institute, London

A comprehensive course of lectures and practical, hands-on microscopy sessions, the course is aimed at pathologists in training and consultant pathologists wishing to update their knowledge.

Fee £195 (or US\$335).

Further information from Professor B Corrin, Lung Pathology, Brompton Hospital, London SW3 6NP, UK. Fax: 071-351 8443. Tel: 071-351 8420.

ACP

One day course

Bone marrow trephine interpretation

The Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield

Friday 19 June 1992

Organiser

Dr DWK Cotton

Lectures will take place in the morning. In the afternoon there will be a slide seminar with about 15 cases to examine, followed by a discussion. The cost will be £50 including coffee, lunch and tea.

Cheques to be made payable to University of Sheffield.

All queries to: Dr DWK Cotton, Department of Pathology, University of Sheffield Medical School, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield S10 2RX

Correction

In *J Clin Pathol* 1991;44:564-8; by Ratti G, an error occurred on page 565. "A solution containing all components but also sample DNA and DNA polymerase" should have read "A solution containing all the PCR reagents but sample DNA and DNA polymerase."



The Metabolic and Molecular Basis of Acquired Disease. Vols 1 and 2

Richard Andrews

J Clin Pathol 1992 45: 91-92
doi: 10.1136/jcp.45.1.91-e

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