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Brommer et al. present a contemporary practical view of fibrinolysis which culminates in an amusing entree against despair, presumably for those left perplexed in spite of this article. Reviews on platelets and molecular markers of in vivo coagulation succinctly describe the notable advances in understanding of biochemical processes in these areas. Bowen and Bloom's article on factor VIII is both instructive and provocative, drawing attention as it does to the need for a clearer understanding of the structure-function implications of mutations in this and other disorders. Reviews on lupus anticoagulants, tissue factor pathway inhibitor, antiplatelet agents, and non-heparin antithrombetics each represent measured views by acknowledged experts, and an article covering the clinically challenging area of thrombosis in infancy is a welcome addition to the sparse literature. It is to be hoped that Poller and Thomson's plea for universal implementation of INR will at last be heard, although this publication may not be the ideal vehicle to "reach those parts ...". The concluding section on key papers from 1991/1992 adds little to the reviews and is the weakest element of an otherwise excellent publication.

In short, this book is thoroughly recommended for all with an interest in blood coagulation, generalists and specialists alike.

SB DAVIES


This is a reference book of immense value. The main author has previously edited a three volume book entitled Cancer of the Larynx and has this time assembled an international team of authorities, mostly from the USA but with 10 authors from the UK. This is not only a book for pathologists—chapters also cover epidemiology and many aspects of clinical management—it is almost like a pathology book and a clinical book bound together within one cover. The essence of the former is contained in 14 of the 36 chapters, which cover the tumour types including such useful aspects as atypical forms of squamous cell carcinoma, rarer tumours, the use of immunohistochemical markers, and a review of the current TNM classifications. For pathologists, the clinical chapters act as an invaluable source of reference as to what are the main treatment consequences of the various tumour diagnostic labels. Where pictures are of exceptional quality and include excellent photomicrographs, photos of macroscopic specimens, large numbers of endoscopic pictures, diagnostic imaging pictures, and many excellent diagrams. This reviewer's favourite clinical picture shows a Japanese patient with a flexible fibre optic endoscope up his nostril, which reminds one of a well-known Japanese television game of endurance and humiliation. The only serious omission for pathologists is the lack of a good description of how to cut up and sample a laryngeotomy specimen. However, this is a minor criticism. This is an excellent book which needs to be available to any histopathologist who serves an active ENT clinical team.

JWB BRADFIELD


The high standards set by the preceding five volumes have been surpassed by Recent Advances—6. This series aims to present a regular and comprehensive overview of this wide ranging field, and has sustained this by combining judicious selection of topics and reviewers with a remarkably short incubation period. This latter attribute lends a freshness to the contributions which is unusual in this genre.

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