or contact. Typical slender, tapering Gram negative bacilli have been reported in Buffy coat preparations of 12 of 13 such cases in which staining was attempted. In two cases of overwhelming C canimorsus septicaemia whole blood smears were reported positive. \(^{14}\)

A further case, in a 36 year old man without a spleen, presented 36 hours after a trivial dog bite, with purpuric fulminans and disseminated intravascular coagulation. The history of dog bite, asplenia, and Gram negative intracellular rods present in the whole blood immediately suggested the diagnosis and led to a change from the initial empirical antimicrobial treatment for Gram negative septicaemia with a successful outcome.

Gram negative septicaemias generally respond to aminoglycoside treatment, but C canimorsus infections do not. The antimicrobial agents of choice for such infections are penicillin and ciprofloxacin.

M MORGAN

**Public Health Laboratory Service, Church Lane, Henstridge, Exeter EX2 5AD**


I was slightly surprised that there was virtually no mention of the epidemiology of appendicitis, in particular, recent work suggesting an infectious origin. However, the book is a goldmine of information and makes fascinating reading. I would thoroughly recommend it to any pathologist with an interest in gastrointestinal pathology, gastroenterologist, or surgeon with an interest in gastrointestinal diseases.

CLAIR DU BOULAY


Large text books, often in more than one volume, which try and include all there is to know about a subject, are different things to different people. To the medical undergraduate they may represent an Everest; to the junior trainee in histopathology they may represent a supermarket; to the pre-examination trainee the sum of all knowledge which they assume are expected to know; and to the consultant pathologist a reference book. In the Preface to the first edition this set is aimed at "a surgical pathologist working solo". Hopefully this is a rapidly diminishing species. The second edition has in its Preface, "our authors have worked with enlightened care, selectively reviewing new information and preparing it in a manner that we feel is appropriate for the practising surgical pathologist".

As a practising surgical pathologist I have used these books as desk-top reference books and I have found them excellent. The writing is clear and unambiguous. The index is reasonable but does not include some rare conditions, such as vasitis nodosa, and is irritating because, for example, there are only two entries under bladder (and neither of these says "see urinary tract") and all the pathology of the bladder is indexed under urinary tract.

The pictures, which are a good mix of colour and black and white, are appropriate, of reasonable size and clear definition. In only occasional chapters is the magnification given but, for the most part, this should not be a problem to the practising histopathologist.

The references are comprehensive and reasonably up to date but do not seem to be very selective and look as if they have come straight off a computer; I would have preferred some indication of what the authors consider key papers.

I think this set will be of great value to consultant pathologists and those who are nearing the end of their training, but if used for exams, could well be overwhelming.

DH MELCHER

**Book reviews**

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(The price and availability are occasionally subject to revision by the Publishers.)


This attractive, slim, yellow volume has been written by a pathologist and a surgeon. It attempts to pull together the underlying pathological processes and subsequent clinical presentation and treatment of diseases of the appendix. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about all aspects of the appendix, its anatomy and pathology, and the management of its diseases. The diagrams are clear and the photomicrographs are excellent.

**Some new titles**

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.


**Correspondence**

**Notices**

1 Histopathology of the bone marrow

St Mary's Hospital Medical School

Wednesday 7 September 1994

The course is for consultant haematologists, consultant histopathologists, and advanced trainees in haematology and histopathology.

Those wishing to participate should apply in writing, enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount to:

Dr B J Bain, Department of Haematology, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Norfolk Place, London W2 1PG

Cheques to be made payable to: St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Account No HA 83 20 Cost: £75

1994 Penrose Cancer Conference on soft tissue sarcomas

September 23–24 1994

Broadmoor Hotel

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Guest discussants will include Drs Richard Kempson, Stanford University; Sharon Weiss, University of Michigan; and Maxine Jochelson and Charles Forscher, Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center. These highly acclaimed conferences focus primarily on the diagnosis of neoplasms, and provide a unique alternative to other treatment oriented programmes in the field. Cases submitted by physicians around the country will be used to illustrate difficult diagnostic issues. Prior to the meeting, attendees will receive a clinical record, photographs of imaging, and microscopic slides for those cases to be discussed. Objectives of the conference include the review of soft tissue sarcoma cases with emphasis on pathological and radiological diagnosis. AMA Accreditation Category I, 9 hours.

Registration fees for physicians: $275 before August 15, $300 after. Registration fees are waived for residents in training who provide appropriate documentation of their status and register before August 15; $50 registration fee thereafter.

For further information, please contact:

Leslie Bent, R.N.

Penrose Cancer Center

P.O. Box 7021

Colorado Springs, CO 80933

7 (719) 577-2510 or 7 (719) 630-5271

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**Correction**

G K Banneree's name was inadvertently omitted from the correspondence on benign familial hyperphosphatasemia *J Clin Pathol* 1993;46:187–8.
Pathology of the Appendix

Clair Du Boulay

*J Clin Pathol* 1994 47: 682
doi: 10.1136/jcp.47.7.682-a

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jcp.bmj.com/content/47/7/682.1.citation

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