

cific clinical settings, transfusion transmitted infections, adverse reactions to transfusion, and new and evolving regimens. The layout is extremely user-friendly with respect to consulting the book on a particular bedside problem. At times, perhaps the enthusiasm for clinical matters is carried a little too far, the summary of surgical techniques used in intra-hepatic shunts, which appears in the section on surgical blood saving, is fascinating but possibly superfluous in this presentation. In general though the approach of case orientated discussion works well and, where necessary, sufficient laboratory background is given to enable a good understanding of the problems.

This "background" approach could in places have been further developed with advantage, for instance with the reference, in various sections, to leucocyte reduction. Separated as they are, it is less easy to obtain an overview of the basics and drawbacks of this technique, and a small, specific section dealing with mechanisms of filtration and critical factors in the use of filters would have been useful.

The section on new and evolving regimens brings the reader up to date with the subject dealing with response modifiers, adoptive immunotherapy, gene therapy, and peripheral blood stem cell therapy. This text was prepared at a time when allogenic cord blood transfusion was seen as a topic still under development but with an apparently bright future, so one can confidently expect a development of this theme in the fourth edition of this text. Perhaps one of the greatest virtues of the volume is its comprehensive list of references. Admittedly, with a multiauthor genesis, references may be duplicated, but with 6049, readers are hardly likely to be frustrated in their search for knowledge. Any book in which the section on platelet therapy begins with an aphorism to the effect that possession of a thorough understanding of platelet transfusion is indicative of confusion rather than confidence, cannot be all bad. This volume is virtually all good and commends itself to anyone taking an active interest in transfusion medicine at a post-graduate level. No self respecting specialist in the subject should be without it.

W WAGSTAFF

Bone Marrow Pathology. 2nd edn. Bain BJ, Clark DM, Lampert IA. (Pp 328; £79.50.) Blackwell Science. 1996. ISBN 0 865 42647 3.

It was a pleasure to review the second edition of "Bone Marrow Pathology" knowing how useful the first edition has proved. For those not familiar with the book, it is an ideal practical book for all haematologists and histopathologists involved in reporting bone marrow aspirates and trephines.

It has a clear layout with good quality colour photomicrographs of an appropriate mixture of cytological and histological appearances. The chapters work methodically through the normal marrow, infective and reactive conditions, the various haematological and lymphoid malignancies, disorders of haemopoiesis, metastatic tumours, and bone disorders. There are useful tables and graphs of normal values, grading systems, classification of leukaemias and lymphomas, suitable antibody panels, etc. The text is easy to read and with a wealth of practical comments related to the authors' experience.

If there is any department that reports trephines and does not own the first edition, then the second edition is an essential purchase. I have tried to do a "spot the difference" between the two editions to decide whether owners of the first edition should upgrade. The chapter titles are unchanged and most of the photographs and tables are the same. This is not a major rewrite but there are significant differences in areas such as immunocytochemistry and lymphoma classification. The REAL classification is included and compared with the Kiel and Working Formulation. Useful new antibodies are discussed, and a technical appendix has been added. Several pages are devoted to a new section on artefacts that should be particularly useful to haematologists who are less likely to be familiar with the artefacts common to formalin fixed, paraffin wax embedded sections.

The book emphasises an integrated approach for reaching a diagnosis. There is no place for a histopathologist reporting the trephine in ignorance of the aspirate's appearance but it is also unsatisfactory if the trephine goes straight to the haematologist. The combination of good quality trephine sections and this book should encourage histopathologists to participate in this fascinating and demanding field. Haematologists reading this book will appreciate the additional information that can be gleaned from good quality sections and this may influence their attitude towards taking trephines.

S DILLY

Notices

Histopathology of the bone marrow

Wednesday 17 September 1997

Imperial College School of Medicine,
St Mary's London, UK

A one day course suitable for career post holders and trainees in haematology and histopathology.

Numbers restricted to 40; CME approved (7 credits); cost £85 (including lunch).

Apply in writing enclosing a cheque (payable to Imperial College) to Jenny Guy, Postgraduate Course Organiser, Postgraduate Medical Centre, 2nd Floor, Mint Wing, St Mary's Hospital, London W2, UK.

Second meeting of the European Study Group on Molecular Diagnostics

Wednesday 15 October 1997

Kurhaus Hotel, The Hague, Netherlands

Registration is free.

For further information contact Prof. Dr. M Altwegg, Department of Microbiology, University of Zurich, Gloriastrasse 30, CH-8028 Zurich, Switzerland. (Fax: +41 (1) 252 8107.)

Practical adult cardiovascular pathology course

Monday 17 November 1997

This practical, hands on course approaches in detail the problems that face diagnostic pathologists when dealing with cardiovascular pathology. The approach to cardiac autopsy and sudden death will be emphasised. Cardiac specimens will be made available for dissection and analysis, and practical demonstrations as well as video demonstrations will be highlighted. A slide seminar is also included. The course is aimed at trainees studying for the MRCPPath as well as senior pathologists who wish to update their knowledge.

Course fee: £125 including coffee, tea and lunch (£100 for juniors in training).

For further details contact the National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY, UK. (Tel: 0171 351 8172; fax: 0171 376 3442.)

Supraregional Assay and Advisory Service

In response to tenders received, the following laboratories have been designated to offer the Supraregional Assay and Advisory Service:

Porphyria metabolism

King's College School of
Medicine and Dentistry,
Department of Clinical Biochemistry,
Bessemer Road, London SE5 9PJ.

Professor T J Peters, tel: 0171 737 3008;
fax 0171 737 7434.

University Hospital of Wales
NHS Trust Laboratory,
Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XW.

Professor G H Elder, tel: 01222 742799
(laboratory); 01222 743565; fax: 01222 766276.

The standard of the responses to the invitations to tender was very high and the Supraregional Assay and Advisory Service Board compliment the laboratories who bid for these assays.

Professor V Marks, Dean of Medicine, Chairman, SAAS Management Executive Board, EIHMS, University of Surrey, Stirling House Campus, Surrey Research Park, Guildford GU2 5RF.

Correction

Proliferation indexes—a comparison between cutaneous basal and squamous cell carcinomas [letter]. Maiolino P, De Vico G. J Clin Pathol 1997;50:355.

Reference 2 in this letter should have read:

De Vico G, Agrimi U, Maiolino P. Nucleolar size and mitotic index in basal cell carcinomas (BCC) and squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) of canine skin. *Journal of Veterinary Medicine series A* 1995;42:339–43.

and not as published. The error is regretted.