Book reviews

Atlas of Diagnostic Gastrointestinal Cytology. M Takeda (Pp 229; \$66.) Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers Inc. 1983.

Widespread use of fiberoptic endoscopy and fine needle aspiration guided by a variety of imaging techniques has rapidly enlarged the field of cytopathology and led to publication of a growing number of monographs on the cytopathology of single organs or body systems. This atlas of diagnostic gastrointestinal cytology is a welcome addition.

The book is generously illustrated with good quality half-tone and colour photographs. The limitations of an atlas are avoided because there is a substantial text which gives a historical review as well as descriptions of cytological and histological appearances covering the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract, pancreas, liver, and biliary tree. The account of preinvasive dysplasia of the oesophagus based on the Chinese experience of screening high risk populations with an inflatable abrasive balloon and the descriptions of the cytology of early and advanced gastric cancer are of particular interest. The author has collaborated with radiologists as well as pathologists at Jefferson Medical College to give detailed accounts of the methods for obtaining specimens for cytodiagnosis during percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography and using modern imaging techniques for guidance of fine needle aspiration.

This is a well produced book which will be of value to pathologists concerned with diagnostic cytology of gastrointestinal disease.

ELIZABETH HUDSON

Symposium on Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue. Ed WH Akeson, P Bornstein and MJ Glimcher. (Pp 380; illustrated; £43.50.) Year Book Medical Publishers Ltd. 1982.

These are the opulently produced proceedings of a symposium held in San Diego in 1980 and published two years later. Nevertheless they contain a wideranging account of molecular abnormalities of collagen genes and proteins as reflected by various diseases such as Osteogenesis

imperfecta, various types of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and certain of the inherited chondrodystrophies. All these diseases are now amenable to the molecular approach which has been so successful in unravelling the more common, much simpler haemoglobinopathies. The contributors include most of the recognised American investigators with a few notable exceptions.

All the essential biochemical information current at the time of the symposium is covered including the by now mandatory techniques of gene cloning and characterisation. Already this field is moving very fast and gene deletions, insertions, and polymorphisms in various collagen types are very close to detection. This provides an interesting and up-to-date account for all relevant workers in this field including molecular biologists, biochemistry medical geneticists, paediatricians, orthopaedic surgeons, and metabolic physicians, although at £43.50 most people are likely to read their library copy rather than purchase their own.

FM POPE

Thalassemia: Recent Advances in Detection and Treatment. March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Birth Defects: Original Article Series, Vol 18, no 7, 1982. Ed A Cao, U Carcassi and PT Rowley. (Pp 377; £57.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

This volume contains the papers presented at the International Symposium held in June 1981 in Cagliari, Sardinia, and sponsored by March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. It is divided into five main sections: molecular biology and genetics of thalassaemia syndromes; regulation of globin chain expression; thalassaemia types in Italy; pathophysiology and clinical aspects; and finally treatment of thalassaemia.

The volume shows most of the advantages and the disadvantages of publishing proceedings: it is a combination of exciting, esoteric, and dull, but it also succeeds in covering virtually every aspect of thalassaemia from molecular biology to public health and epidemiology. It is a surprisingly easy and interesting volume to read and a useful addition to the increasingly complex literature on thalassaemia syndromes.

Sadly, its price is so high that few individuals will be able to afford it.

MILICA BROZOVIC

Tumors of the Central Nervous System. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. Supplement Fascicle 6, 2nd series. Lucien J Rubinstein (Pp 33; \$4.75.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1982.

This slim supplement contains four topics. There is an account of some recent work on experimental brain tumours, particularly the use of oncogenic viruses. Professor Rubinstein maintains that the cranio-spinal haemangio-pericytoma is a different entity from the angioblastic meningioma and produces ultrastructural evidence to prove it. Pineal tumours are so rare, particularly true pineocytomas, that the evidence about their histogenesis produced here is very interesting. Finally there is a good survey of the use of immunostaining for GFA protein in diagnostic neuropathology.

BARBARA F SMITH

Minimal Invasive Cancer (Microcarcinoma). Clinics in Oncology. Vol 1 no 2. Guest eds E Burghardt and E Holzer. (Pp 332; illustrated; £11.75.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1982.

It has for some time been generally accepted that an invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix has to reach a certain size in terms of volume of growth or depth of invasion before it overcomes the local tissue defences and becomes established as a tumour capable of metastasis. This concept has led to the use of the term microinvasive carcinoma and implicit in the use of this term is the hope that the smallest invasive carcinomas, which have virtually no potential for metastasis, may be treated by less radical procedures than the more advanced tumours. Can the same ideas be applied to cancers of other histological types and at other sites? Although the cervix is probably the organ where most information is available about the earliest stages of invasion, there is still some way to go before precise, treatment-related definition is available and the study of minimally invasive cancers at other sites still in its infancy. A symposium was held in Graz, Austria, in July 1981, at which the question of minimal invasive cancer at various sites was discussed; this book contains papers presented at that meeting. In addition to the cervix, other sites studied were vulva, endometrium, ovary, breast,