Tobacco. A Major International Health Hazard. Ed. D Xaridze and R Peto. IARC Scientific Publications No. 74. (Pp. 324; £20.) Oxford University Press. 1987. ISBN 92 832 1174 X

Cigarette smoking gives pleasure to some, it angers many, and it kills many from cancer, arterial, and lung diseases. It is the archetype of the problems of toxicity in modern society—a complex mixture to analyse, many pathological effects, and a complex interplay between individual, industrial, and societal responsibilities.

All these factors are well presented here in the main papers of a conference held by the IARC in 1985. There is a predominance of epidemiological studies confirming known harmful effects and presenting the less certain evidence about passive smoking.

The spread and usage of cigarettes in third world countries is clearly analysed, and so is information about the local carcinogenic effects of sniffed, chewed, and sucked "smokeless tobaccos". How the sophisticated engineering of a modern filter cigarette can diminish the harmfulness of its smoke is presented. (There must be many PhD's on the physics of fags.)

If we are to harm ourselves with cigarettes, then medicine should certainly take advantage of pandemic toxicology to learn how to study population diseases and how toxic effects are produced, so that there is some balancing benefit from the ill health produced. The book is a clear and useful review of our knowledge of tobacco and its hazards, omitting only the pharmacology of what makes people smoke. It will be useful for teaching and stimulating discussion about man's most harmful effect on himself.

AD DAYAN

Proceedings of the Arthur Purdy Stout Society Symposium Current Problems in Surgical Pathology of Infectious Disease. The American Journal of Surgical Pathology Vol 11, Supp. 1, 1987. Ed-in-Chief SS Sternberg. (Pp 104; \$30.) Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0-88167-320-X.

This supplement contains valuable up to date information on endocrine tumours of the gastrointestinal tract. Tumours less than 1 cm in diameter rarely metastasise but those larger than 2 cm nearly always metastasise. A lesion confined to the bowel wall has a five year survival of 85% but if there is spread to the serosa this falls to 5%. Endocrine

tumours of the rectum have an 85% survival over five years although recent studies from St Mark's Hospital indicate poor long term survival figures. Gastric tumours have a 70% survival over five years while tumours of the ileum and colon are associated with a lower 55% rate. Stomachs of patients with long-standing G or ECL cell hyperplasia frequently show the presence of microcarcinoids and grossly visible carcinoid tumours may develop in a small proportion of cases. The same sequence is not generally encountered elsewhere in the gastrointestinal tract in association with hyperplasia. The issue includes superb illustrations of opportunistic infections in AIDS and immunocompromised patients affecting gastrointestinal tract, respiratory tract and the central nervous system. There is also an excellent contribution on human lyme disease which again is elegantly illustrated. Clearly, this is a very useful supplement which will be of value in day to day routine histopathology.

H THOMPSON

Blood Transfusion Therapy. A Problem Oriented Approach. JAF Napier. (Pp 442; £40.) John Wiley. 1987. ISBN 0 471 91283 2.

Blood transfusion practice is essentially blood component therapy. Dr Napier's book begins with a comprehensive table of the current range of therapeutic cellular components and plasma products, together with guidance on their clinical applications. Subsequent sections illustrate the increasing scope of transfusion medicine and deal with specific transfusion problems relating to medicine, surgery, obstetrics, anaesthetics and intensive care, paediatrics, haematology, and transplantation. Each section has a pathophysiological orientation to encourage more rational transfusion therapy. Beneficial as transfusion is, it is not without risk, and there are sections on the harmful effects of transfusion including transmission of infection, the organisation of safe hospital transfusion procedures through error avoidance, and a sobering concluding section on medico-legal considerations. This is an invaluable book for haematologists in charge of hospital blood transfusion services, and a useful guide for other clinicians. It is a much needed addition to the texts available for trainee haematologists and medical laboratory scientific staff working in transfusion medicine.

AH WATERS

An Atlas of Gross Pathology. CDM Fletcher, PH McKee. (Pp 107; soft cover £11.95.) Edward Arnold. 1987. ISBN 0-7131-4559-9.

This atlas, aimed principally at medical students, is well presented with 385 high quality colour photographs and 26 tables and diagrams. All of the major systems are discussed with comprehensive coverage of the common and (exam) important disease processes. Each photograph is accompanied by a short description and general discussion of the pathology involved. The only drawbacks to this otherwise excellent book is a slight tendency of the text to be pedantic and the lack of suitable arrows on many of the photographs where the pathology is less than obvious.

Although there are several other atlases competing in this area this book is exceptionally well priced and should be of immense value to students coming up to pathology exams. I would certainly recommend it.

DA ROUSE

Microcomputer Applications in the Clinical Laboratory. MDD McNeely. (Pp 366; soft cover \$43.) Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0-89189-218-4.

This is not another highly technical tome, stuffed with gnostic machine code listings and flow diagrams, as its title might imply. It is a highly readable guide to the use of personal computers in the practice of pathology, which any pathologist would benefit from reading.

After a succinct introduction to the history, anatomy, and physiology of personal computers, the author reviews their many uses in the laboratory. The topics discussed are illustrated with apposite examples, mainly taken from the author's own practice, and include research, service, and laboratory administration applications.

The value of the book as a reference work to readers outwith North America is limited; the copious lists of hardware and software suppliers give only North American addresses. In particular, British readers need to be aware that many of the applications cited fall within the remit of the Data Protection Act 1984.

This book should be required reading for all pathologists who have purchased, or are contemplating the purchase of, a word processor or personal computer.

ARW FORREST