Book reviews

Ultrastructural Study of the Human Diseased Peripheral Nerve. 2nd ed. C Vital, J-M Vallat. (Pp 290; \$58.) Elsevier. 1987. ISBN 0 444 0136 6.

First published in 1980, this edition gives a full account of the ultrastructural features of biopsied human cutaneous nerve. It is based on the large experience of the authors who have systematically studied the morphology of peripheral nerve and its clinicopathological correlations.

The book is divided into three sections. The first comprises four chapters that detail the electron microscopic features of normal peripheral nerve, techniques, and morphometry. The second is made up of two chapters that give an excellent account of the pathological changes occurring in both nerves and interstitium, and the third is made up of 12 chapters which describe in detail the changes found in particular categories of disease, such as the paraneoplastic and inherited neuropathies.

This is undoubtedly a comprehensive compendium comprising 267 electron micrographs, a concise text, a good index, and over 890 references. It is noted, however, that there are very few references quoted after 1985.

This is a first class bench book and is therefore strongly recommended to all departments that provide a diagnostic service in peripheral nerves. It is beautifully illustrated, well written, and priced modestly.

DI GRAHAM

Portraits from Memory. Sir James Howie. The Memoir Club. (Pp 164; £14.95.) British Medical Journal. 1988. ISBN 0-7279-0243-1.

I should like to thank Sir James for one of the most enjoyable and entertaining train journeys I have had for a long time. His well known vignettes, originally published in the *British Medical Journal*, are now collected together in a single volume with a few hitherto unpublished "portraits"—including one of himself.

The motley collection of characters is fascinating. There is an understandable bias towards pathologists, some of whose antics defy belief. Desmond Bagley would have been pleased to write the scene where Howie and Murgatroyd, attempting to prevent the spread of yellow fever to Egypt and India,

flew across Africa with an ice packed thermos containing 10 000 irreplaceable doses of vaccine. Their plane crashed into a wood. The starboard engine ploughed through the fuselage smashing the flask, but the ampoules inside were undamaged. So were the passengers, though the author may understandably have been put off flying. It was his first air trip.

Not all the sketches are of doctors. For example, there is Archie Craig, the cleric's cleric with a penchant for neologisms, and Cecilia Scott, the Glasgow fever hospital charge nurse who could diagnose "mizzles" before Koplik's spots appeared simply by the look of a child. She never qualified. She never married either, but was happy to confide that she had not been "neglected". Marvellous stuff, all of it. The two hours from St Pancras have never passed so quickly.

JS LILLEYMAN

Boyd's Introduction to the Study of Disease. 10th ed. Huntington Sheldon. (Pp 702; £22.35.) Lea and Febiger (UK) Ltd. 1988. ISBN 0-8121-1157-5.

The earlier editions of this book were popular with medical students of my generation because of the racy style of the late William Boyd. Dr Sheldon has made strenuous attempts to update the book so that it will still be relevant, but he has not made clear in the preface the audience for which it is intended. The balance between general pathology (333 pages) and systemic pathology (326 pages) would seem inappropriate to medical students.

The old lady (now in her 50th year) has had her "make-up" applied skilfully by Dr Sheldon, but the ravages of her age show through—what other textbook of pathology has so many poor, poorly informative illustrations lacking tonal contrast (Fig 10-6 p 272) and where else would one read such purple prose—"When the heat of Arabia comes out like a drawn sword and strikes you . . ." (p 32), an account of the diagnostic methods practised by a Tibetan healer (p 94), or a short essay on terminal care (p 674). I regret that I cannot recommend that my students should purchase this book.

J SWANSON BECK

Female Genital Cancer. Ed SB Gusberg, HM Shingleton, G Deppe. (Pp 857; £95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-08525-0.

This book is one of several recently pub-

lished volumes devoted to gynaecological oncology as a subdiscipline, a speciality which is relatively new in the United Kingdom and regrettably restricted to only a few centres. It embraces a wide diversity of topics, including epidemiology, immunology, surgery, radiotherapy, psychology etc. The pathological aspects of female genital cancer therefore comprise only one part of the text and exemplify the maxim that pathology is best written by pathologists. Dr Dwayne Lawrence's contributions are admirable but the remaining pathology is on the whole weak.

Breast cancer comes within the influence of the gynaecological oncologist in the United States (though not, conventionally, in this country). For this reason it is included here, albeit perfunctorily. Even if the histopathology of invasive mammary neoplasia is not particularly challenging, it surely deserves more than half a page.

Neither specialist gynaecological or general pathologist will find this book of much value, because it is intended primarily for clinicians and there are many others that deal much better with viruses and cancer, molecular biology and immunology. The pathologist with a special interest might find it of value to dip into from time to time to gain further insight into clinical matters but he or she should borrow a copy and not spend £95 for the privilege.

M WELLS

Lung Tumors. Lung, Mediastinum, Pleura, and Chest Wall. Ed B Hoogstraten, BJ Addis, HH Hansen, N Martini, SG Spiro. UICC International Union against Cancer. Current Treatment of Cancer. (Pp 272; 100 figs.; soft cover DM 98.) Springer. 1988. ISBN 3-540-16920-2.

This handy softback book covers its subject comprehensively and provides easy reading. Its subject is tumours of the lung, mediastinum, pleura, and chest wall, and in relation to these it covers epidemiology, aetiology, biology, pathology, early detection, clinical features, diagnostic procedures, staging, prognosis, treatment, and outcome. Apart from a chapter on the Sloan-Kettering experience, these aspects of lung tumours are dealt with exclusively by workers at the Brompton and Marsden hospitals in London and the Finsen Institute in Copenhagen. Three chapters are the result of combining manuscripts from London that match ones from Copenhagen. In view of this it is

surprising that the chapters on the pathology of lung tumours by Addis and Hirsch were not combined, for no disagreement exists between these writers. Both provide a succinct, well illustrated, straightforward account. Both rightly adhere to the WHO histopathological classification. Hirsch includes cytology and electron microscopy, but neither pathologist acknowledges any more heterogeneity in carcinoma of the lung than is envisaged by the WHO panel: neither evidently considers immunocytochemistry to be of value in diagnosing tumours of the lung (in contrast to Addis's later chapter on mediastinal tumours). The other chapters on lung tumours are all relevant to pathology and in particular the pathologist's role in staging a tumour is essential reading for those unfamiliar with reporting on these neoplasms. Carcinoma of the lung is unfortunately so common that the reader will probably be familiar with much in the first part of this book but it is nevertheless useful to have an up to date account of the modern management of this disease. Because of lack of familiarity it is likely that the reader will have as much recourse to the less common tumours described in the second part of the book, these arising in the mediastinum, pleura, and chest wall. Here, Addis again provides well written, succinct, and ably illustrated chapters on their histopathology.

Many will find the assembly of clinical and pathological data in this one book useful. I enjoyed reading it and can recommend it without reservation.

B CORRIN

Cancer. The Outlaw Cell. 2nd ed. Ed Richard E LaFond. (Pp 274; soft cover \$23.95.) American Chemical Society. 1988. ISBN 0-8412-1420-4.

This volume, from the prestigious American Chemical Society, contains a series of articles by leading scientists in the USA presenting their views on the current knowledge of cancer and modes of treatment. The declared market is both medical and general public, hence essential basic knowledge, such as, "what is a virus?", is included.

The general layout and headings are clear; coloured figures and tables abound, at times seeming excessive, giving one an impression of WIMPS, but generally making or reinforcing necessary points.

A series of separate articles predictably leads to loss of continuity; yet overall, a coherent picture of current concepts of

aetiology, behaviour, and treatment of cancer is achieved. The claim made for the benefit of "specific active immunotherapy" after surgical removal of early squamous carcinoma of the lung is dramatic—at present surely best viewed as a challenge to oncologists to evaluate and repeat this work.

This book reads like a novel and covers a vast subject. Most pathologists (and other health care workers) will gain further insight into the "cancer cell" from reading this work. The title *The Outlaw Cell* suggests "gerit caput lupinum", an animal to be hunted and struck down, and this is the hopeful thrust of this work. This is a book which should be in all medical libraries.

MJ SWORN

Diseases of the Ear. Clinical and Pathological Aspects. M Hawke, AF Jahn. (£80.) Gower Medical Publishing. 1988. ISBN 0-397-44673-X.

This is a large format pictorial book by two North American authors based largely on material in the renowned Ontario Temporal Bone Laboratory. It is divided into sections on the pinna, the external auditory canal, the middle ear, the otic capsule, and the inner ear, and consists of clinical photographs, histopathological appearances, and text. The quality of the illustrations is superb, and they are also available in a slide set. Sadly the text is less satisfying, being more in the nature of extended captions to the pictures and being as a result rather superficial. For an otologist the text is inadequate for postgraduate examinations; I am sure the same is true for trainee pathologists, and it is difficult to know at whom the book is aimed. What it does achieve is to give non-specialist pathologists an overview of ear conditions on which build more detailed pathology. Otologists may prefer to purchase the slide set, especially if they are concerned with teaching.

PD BULL

Monokines and Other Non-Lymphocytic Cytokines. Progress in Leukocyte Biology. Vol 8. Ed MC Powanda, JJ Oppenheim, MJ Kluger, CA Dinarello. (Pp 444; \$86.00.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1988. ISBN 0-8451-4107-4.

This book is the proceedings of an international workshop on monokines and other

non-lymphocytic cytokines held in South Carolina, December 6-10, 1987. Inevitably in such proceedings this is made up of a large number of fairly short presentations. These have, however, been carefully grouped together into seven main sections. The first section deals with interleukin 6 which was previously known variously as interferon B₂, B-cell stimulatory factor (BSF₂), hybridoma/plasmacytoma growth factor (HGF or HPGF).

The second section is concerned with gene expression with some elegant molecular biology and the third deals with regulation of synthesis release of cytokines. It is particularly relevant to the readers of this Journal that gene expression by in situ hybridisation histochemistry tissue localisation of IL-1 on RNA is described.

Sections four and five deal with receptors and postreceptor events and cytokine activities and interactions in vitro, and section 6 deals with cytokine activities and interactions in vivo.

Finally, section 7 discusses assays for and detection of cytokines in cells, tissues, and body fluids. Various enzyme immunoassay methods are described for platelet derived growth factor and TGF-beta. It is this section that one would have liked to enjoy the benefit of the discussion or concluding remarks of a chairman to give an appraisal of the methodology.

The book is an excellent collection of papers which certainly give the "state of the art" up to one year ago. Inevitably this is a fast moving field which changes constantly, but for most who wish to learn more of this very important field of cell to cell messages this will more than suffice. It is warmly recommended for biochemists, cell biologists, immunologists, microbiologists, histopathologists, pharmacologists, rheumatologists, and oncologists, to name but a few. It is very good value for money with so much information packed into its pages.

DA WILLOUGHBY

Methods for Detecting DNA Damaging Agents in Humans. IARC Scientific Publications No 89. Eds H Bartsch, K Hemminki, IK O'Neill. (Pp 518; £45.) Oxford University Press. 1988. ISBN: 92-832-1189-8.

This book represents the proceedings of an IARC meeting on biological monitoring, held at Espoo, Finland, in September 1987. Most of the papers presented focus on the