because the illustrations depict typical appearances only and give no indication of the extent of variation in appearance among specimens, even in common disease.

The introductory chapter of this book presents a balanced review of the potential role for electron microscopy in anatomical pathology, highlighting (a) its unique contribution to the diagnosis of certain diseases, (b) its potential value in quality control of histopathological diagnosis, (c) its use in extending appreciation of light microscope appearances, (d) its importance in delineation of new disease entities, (e) its utility in evaluation of the effects of drugs and other treatments on the disease process, and (f) its central role in elucidation of pathogenetic mechanisms, in the advancement of cell biology and in teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students. These arguments are to a greater or less extent pertinent to the justification of electron microscopy facilities within an academic department, but most of the points would be considered, at best, marginal advantages to the provision of reliable histopathological diagnostic service. They could be used convincingly to buy on someone else's electron microscopy but not to justify the purchase of a machine for a diagnostic laboratory.

This is a carefully prepared scholarly book. It will be useful as a reference book in an electron microscopy laboratory or a medical school library, but I regret that few clinical directors will purchase it as a bench book in the histopathology laboratory of directly managed units or NHS Trusts.

J SWANSON BECK

Ophthalmic Histopathology. WR Lee. (Pp 337; 491 figs; DM348-00.) Springer. 1993. ISBN 3-540-19686-2

This excellent book was written "to give guidance to histopathologists who are dealing with pathological specimens submitted by ophthalmologists", in general or specialist ophthalmic pathology laboratories. The book usefully replaces the conventional approach of the ophthalmic pathology textbook, which discuss eye diseases on an anatomical basis, with a series of chapters reflecting the broad headings used by ophthalmologists as indications for enucleation such as "trauma", "tumour", "vascular disease", etc. These are supplemented by chapters on specific specimens such as the corneal disc, orbital biopsy, conjunctival biopsy, lens etc, and valuable chapters on necropsy pathology and basic methodology.

The result is a "bench" textbook which uniquely integrates the effects of diseases on the several anatomical components of the eye into chapters with a "whole eye" overview. The book is lavishly illustrated with high quality macroscopic and microscopic photographs and line drawings, although very occasional photomicrographs seem slightly too dark in my printing.

This impressive textbook is very highly recommended as the book of choice both for trainee and more senior histopathologists dealing with ophthalmic pathological specimens, and for clinical ophthalmologists with an interest in eye pathology. This book represents excellent value for money.

MA PARSONS

Notices

Postgraduate Course Current Concepts in Surgical Pathology

November 15-19, 1993

The Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, will present a postgraduate course in surgical pathology under the direction of Drs Nancy L Harris, Robert H Young, and Eugene J Mark.

The course is designed for pathologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide an in-depth review of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on morphological features, newly recognised entities, and new techniques, presented by the faculty of the Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital. Instruction will be primarily by lecture, but will also include discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The course has category 1 accreditation for about 35 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association.

The fee for the course is \$775.00 (residents and fellows \$550.00).

For further information contact: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115 (Telephone: (617) 432-1525).

Histopathology for the MRCPATH

23-28 January, 1994,
Oak Hotel, Brighton

Organised by the SE Thames Higher Training Committee on behalf of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, this course is the second in a three yearly cycle of residential courses for MRCPATH candidates working under either old or new regulations and includes elements of general pathology, histopathology, cytopathology, necropsy pathology and laboratory management and is suitable for both registrars and senior registrars. Microscopes will be provided. Each course member will receive a slide box of about 100 cases to keep.

The course will end with a mock practical examination to provide feedback on individual performance and progress.

The course fee of £450 includes all charges for accommodation, catering, course registration and slide box. Numbers are strictly limited so early booking is advised.

Write for further details to: Theresa Bromage, Histopathology Department, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton BN2 5BE. Tel: 0273-664501. Fax: 0273-600182.

First European Dermatopathology Ski Retreat

31 January-4 February, 1994,
Briançon, Alp Maritime, France

Briançon, the highest fortified town in Europe, will host the first European dermatopathology ski retreat. Two minutes from the Congress Centre the Prorel skilift will offer skiers access to the largest skiing area in the sunny southern French Alps.

Slide seminars in various fields of dermatopathology will be given. Microscopes will be available to view the biopsy specimens at the meeting. Delegates may also submit cases for discussion. English will be the official language of the meeting.

For more information contact: Dr J-H Oddou, B.P. 8, 05000 Gap, France. Fax (33) 92 51 92 55, or Dr N Kirkham, Histopathology Department, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton BN2 5BE. Fax (44) 273 600182.

World Congresses of Gastroenterology

2-7 October, 1994,
Los Angeles, California

A comprehensive program has been created to challenge the diverse interests of the international gastroenterological community.

An excellent and exciting opportunity has been made available for young clinicians and investigators to meet individually and collectively with their counterparts from all over the world.

The 1994 World Congresses will provide a unique educational experience in all aspects of gastroenterology. All major US medical and surgical gastroenterological organisations have combined their efforts to ensure a strong academic experience.

For further information contact: World Congresses of Gastroenterology Secretariat, 655 15th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005 USA. Tel: (202) 639-4626. Fax: (202) 347-6109.

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRCPATH who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact The General Secretary, 221 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. Tel (0273) 561188. Fax (0273) 541227.