HISTOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE NEPHROTIC SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH QUANTAN MALARIA

Sir,

Since this article was submitted, an excellent account of nephropathies in West Africa has been published. The histological features of the nephrotic syndrome in children in Ibadan associated with P. malariae infection are similar to those described in our article.


J. W. KIBUKAMUSOKA
M. S. R. HUTT
Kampala, Uganda

RECOGNITION OF TRAINING LABORATORIES

The College of Pathologists is at present preparing lists of laboratories recognized as suitable for the training of pathologists. This is preparatory to the introduction of regulations requiring entrants to the College Examinations to have held appointments in such recognized laboratories. Applications to be considered for recognition should be submitted on forms obtainable from the Registrar at the College of Pathologists, 16 Park Crescent, W.1.

T. CRAWFORD
Registrar

POPULATION SCREENING FOR CERVICAL CANCER

At the Council Meeting of the Association of Clinical Pathologists on 25 January there was a wide-ranging discussion covering the field of exfoliative cytology, especially in relation to population screening for cervical cancer, and the following resolutions were approved:

1 To support the formation of a joint committee with the College of Pathologists and the British Society for Clinical Cytology, to be concerned with cytology in general, the training of workers in the field, and the problems of nomenclature.

2 The Technical Methods Committee of the Association of Clinical Pathologists is considering the publication of a series of broshets dealing with exfoliative cytology, to be prepared jointly by the Association and the British Society for Clinical Cytology.

PRIMARY HYPERPARATHYROIDISM: A CRITICAL REVIEW By L. N. Pyrah, A. Hodgkinson, and C. K. Anderson. (Pp. 72; 43 figures. 17s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1966. This is specially reprinted from The British Journal of Surgery, April 1966. The subject is reviewed in detail and readably in 65 pages, illustrated with numerous reproductions of radiographs, photomicrographs, and a few coloured pictures. There are over 450 references. The aspects covered include pathology, and clinical picture, biochemical diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and treatment. The authors draw on their own experience of 68 cases of hyperparathyroidism and on hundreds more in the literature. It is made clear that the biochemist and morbidity anatomist form an essential team with the surgeon in the diagnosis and treatment of the condition. This book is not only a guide to the pathologist as well as to the surgeon, physician, and radiologist: it presents a stimulating account of how the alert clinician is nowadays able to recognize early and minor stages of hyperparathyroidism and by successful surgery prevent the crippling effects of severe and advanced disease. The account of biochemical diagnosis and differential diagnosis is extra detailed and pays much attention to the numerous pitfalls. The contents include discussions of newer topics such as multiple endocrine adenomatosis, parathormone-like activity of occasional cancers of other organs. The book is highly recommended. It is informative, covers a lot in a short space, and will lead its readers to help to uncover yet more examples of hyperparathyroidism. The authors have not speculated on the aetiology of primary parathyroid adenomas or primary diffuse parathyroid hyperplasia and one cannot blame them. I. DONIACH

TREATMENT OF HAEMOPHILIA AND OTHER COAGULATION DISORDERS Edited by Rosemary Biggs and R. G. Macfarlane. (Pp. xiv + 391; illustrated. 75s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1966. Professor Macfarlane and Dr. Biggs and their colleagues have unrivalled experience of all aspects of the treatment of haemophilia, and by their development of the prepartion and use of highly concentrated antihemophilic globulin from animal sources they have enabled major surgery to be undertaken in such patients with conspicuous success. In this book the various members of the Oxford team — physician, surgeon, and laboratory workers — each describe their experience of the treatment of haemophilia and related disorders in great detail from their own point of view; in doing so, they underline the importance of team work and close attention to detail in the management of bleeding episodes, and of surgical procedures in particular. In the final chapter, on haemophilia as a social problem, Macfarlane and Biggs put forward their views on the role of the haemophilia treatment centre, and make a plea for the establishment of one or two major centres in Britain, supported by a number of centres for diagnosis and the treatment of minor episodes. This conclusion is powerfully supported by the remainder of the book, which illustrates the advantages of such an approach in terms not only of
benefit to the individual patient but also of economics. Although the book can be highly recommended to all concerned in the treatment of congenital coagulation disorders, and provides an excellent account of their diagnosis and everyday management, including details of laboratory techniques, it should be read as an argument for referring major surgical or accident cases to the authors' own unit, rather than as an instruction manual to enable others to cope with such problems. The acquired coagulation disorders are outside the scope of the book, and it is perhaps a pity that this is not made plain in its title.

R. M. HARDISTY

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF EXPERIMENTAL PATHOLOGY


When the first volume of this series appeared it was widely hailed as a major and long-awaited contribution to biological reviews. The highly favourable impression created by Volume I was to some extent lessened by some aspects of the intervening annuals. This was due not to any lowering of the standards of originality or scholarship but rather to a tendency to the esoteric, i.e., to dealing with specialized areas of specialist topics. The latest volume, however, returns triumphantly to the concept of the first in that all five contributors deal with topics of current and general importance to pathology.

The first article by D. F. Parsons deals with the structure and function of mitochondria and admirably illustrates the role of the electron microscope in effecting this correlation to the point where the two concepts merge into one another.

The second contribution, by D. G. ScarPELL and N. M. Kanczak, is essentially methodological and deals with ultrastructural cytochemistry. In the course of the chapter, many applications of the methods are presented and critically discussed.

The third article, by A. E. M. McLean, Elizabeth McLean, and J. D. Judah, is devoted to hepatic necrosis induced and modified by drugs. This is a masterly and highly critical review of a field of fundamental importance to pathology since it represents the spearhead of the attack on the problems of cell dysfunction and death.

The fourth chapter is an account by A. S. Cohen of the present state of the amyloid problem. It presents not only a comprehensive review but also a succinct account of the author's own research which has revolutionized all ideas about this substance. Indeed the volume is worth purchasing for this chapter alone.

Finally comes another subject, equally important and equally complex, that of complement, especially its haemolytic function and chemical properties. This article, by P. G. Klein and H. J. Wellensiek, is well up to the standard of the other four chapters and is a remarkably lucid exposition.

The volume as a whole represents an invaluable compendium of information on subjects of vital importance presented and discussed with clarity and judgment. It is well worth the purchase price to any pathologist who wishes to keep abreast of advances in his subject.

W. G. SPECTOR


The second edition is an improvement on the previous volume and a number of controversial points have been omitted. This is quite a large work and the subject is treated with the utmost critical approach. The chapter headings, which have a regional basis, are similar to those in the previous edition, but a chapter has been added on chromosomal abnormalities. The chapter concerned with the newborn infant has been largely rewritten and important changes are seen in connection with cardiovascular disorders and diseases of the liver and kidneys. There are separated accounts of diseases resulting from viruses, protozoa and fungi, and diseases from worm infestation. Some of these are of course more useful to those working in tropical countries or in North America, but their inclusion adds to the value of the book as a reference work.

The volume is well produced and copiously illustrated. The photomicrographs are of a high order with only few exceptions. The bibliography is extensive and is grouped under subject headings at the end of each chapter. Some of the references are not particularly recent but they are representative of both the American and European literature.

This book will be of great value to all those who have an interest in paediatric pathology. The highly personalized style of the author, and the way in which some of his views are expressed, may not commend him to other paediatric pathologists, but as a reference work this book is not likely to be superseded for some time to come.

A. E. CLAIREAUX


Dr. Cameron's thesis is simple: 'It becomes possible to relate all the principal morphological, biochemical, experimental, and therapeutic features of cancer to the single common denominator provided by the hyaluronidase-substrate reaction. The continuous release of hyaluronidase is the fundamental difference between the neoplastic and the normal cell.'

It is a breathtaking recipe and so far from the general view of cancer that the question at once arises, who is out of step? A few points suffice. Differentiation, for example, and its variation from tumour to tumour, the phenomena of anaplasia and metaplasia are passed by entirely. Progression is ignored and hormone-dependence is dealt with thus: 'Is it not possible that regressions occur in patients who have "hormone-sensitive" ground substance rather than in tumours which have "hormone-dependent" cells?' To which one answer is, why, then, do not tumours of all organs respond in similar proportions to endocrine therapy?

Naturally the lack of contact inhibition between tumour cells in culture, where there is no ground substance for hyaluronidase to act upon, is not mentioned. Indeed the whole concept of neoplastic disease built up by experiment and clinical observation is either ignored or distorted to fit somehow into Dr. Cameron's fantastic hypothesis. The tragedy is that probably there is much...