

## Book reviews

CARLETON'S HISTOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE 4th ed. Revised and rewritten by R. A. B. Drury and E. A. Wallington. (Pp. xiv + 432; 55 figures; 29 tables. 60s.) Oxford University Press. 1967.

This is an excellent book with a particular interest for pathologists. It will be a boon to aspirants for membership of the College of Pathologists, being far more than just a series of recipes. The writing is lucid and there is choice guidance to suitable further reading. Although Baker's *Principles of biological microtechnique* (1958) is amongst these, the authors in their chapter on the theory and practice of staining reveal perhaps too little influence of that fascinating and important book. Any reader who feels that the reference list is excessively Anglo-Saxon could reach the other significant literature through the *magnum opus* of Herbert Harms (not quoted) '*Handbuch der Farbstoffe für die Mikroskopie* (1965), Kamp-Lintfort.

In the next edition, which is surely certain, I hope the use of the Colour Index 2nd edition will be further explained so that its value can be more widely enjoyed. It would be a good thing if dyes were henceforth to be designated by their group number rather than their Colour Index number; the latter indicates the published formula but surely Methyl Blue is much more easily recognized as Acid Blue 93 than as 42780! Also, we can guess that Luxol Fast Blue MBSN of Messrs DuPont is the same or nearly the same as Methasol Fast Blue of Messrs I.C.I. since they are both grouped as Solvent Blue 38, although the formula of Solvent Blue 38 has not yet been published and the dye therefore has no Colour Index number.

An interesting novelty in a publication from the Oxford Press appears in the reference lists. The names of the publishers of books have been dropped.

The quality of production is high and faults rare. One misprint was found (p. 366, step 3, saline instead of alcohol) and one mistake (p. 187, step 12 where blotting is suggested). Naturally one can hold different views; for example, I am convinced that van Gieson's stain (p. 167) should be flushed off smartly with *absolute* alcohol and all contact with water be avoided. Also, in the fixation of eyes for embedding in celloidin (p.318), the use of *buffered* formalin is far better. The index is good but less perfect than the rest of the structure.

We have waited long for a new Carleton, and it has arrived as quite the best *vade mecum* for the pathologist; sensible and yet likeable, it is full and yet not dull. I commend it strongly to pathologists of all ages, because this is the kind of book to help the graduate toward a fuller understanding with his technical colleagues. This book is the splendid result of just such a cordial understanding.

A. C. LENDRUM

RACIAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS IN TUMOUR INCIDENCE Edited by A. A. Shivas. (Pp. viii + 291; illustrated. 63s.) Edinburgh University Press. 1967. Now that the possibilities of cancer prevention are

becoming more fully appreciated there is an increasing need for epidemiological studies which can help to identify the causative factors responsible for various types of tumour. This book is a useful contribution to the subject containing, as it does, a collection of papers by international contributors, but it is not a comprehensive review of the subject, and there are, for instance, no more than passing references to the important geographical variations in incidence of cancers of the lung, female breast, and cervix. Indeed the title is misleading because the book covers a wider field than it suggests. Carcinomas of the stomach and nasopharynx and Kaposi's sarcoma are each discussed in some detail and the clinical and pathological features are included. There is an especially interesting paper on the genetics of stomach cancer by McConnell. The section on Kaposi's sarcoma includes a paper on radiological investigations which, although interesting, does not seem relevant to the main theme.

The help in epidemiological studies which can be given by the pathologist is emphasized, and this will be facilitated by agreement on standardization of histological classifications.

Burkitt's tumour is dealt with in two good papers: one by Burkitt himself and the other by Epstein and his colleagues who discuss the possible role of the new herpes-like virus which they have discovered. There are five short papers on cancer incidence in certain parts of the world ranging from Iceland to Singapore.

The last main section of the book consists of an interesting series of papers on the epidemiology of animal tumours. No direct links between animal and human tumours are suggested, but there is the suggestion of similar variations occurring between animal breeds and geographical locations as are found in man, although, as Head points out in his paper, it is difficult to establish natural incidence as there is no veterinary Registrar General.

The book is well produced and easy to read, but some tables lack captions and regrettably there is no index.

M. J. T. ADAMS

METABOLIC DERANGEMENTS IN GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY By B. B. Brooke and G. Slaney. (Pp. ix + 169; illustrated. \$8.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

The authors of this book have tried to write several books in one, and have not quite succeeded. Had they confined themselves to discussing the problems of diagnosis and management of metabolic complications of gastrointestinal surgery, the book could have been generally recommended; for example, the section on alimentary fistula is a model of its kind. In such parts of the book, which are illustrated by detailed case histories, Professor Brooke and Mr. Slaney have drawn on wide experience in patient care and in the teaching of surgery. These sections should be studied, and the advice followed by all surgeons who are concerned with more than operative technique.