
Considerable advances have been made in our knowledge of the neuromuscular system since the first edition of this comprehensive, multiple-contributor book was published in 1964. As then, it is divided into sections on anatomy and physiology, pathology, clinical problems in muscle disease and electrodiagnosis, and is mainly concerned with primary diseases of muscle, but increased attention has been paid to disorders of innervation. Revision, rearrangement, and the addition of new chapters have increased the pages of text from 601 to 908. 'Ultrastructure of the muscle cell' has been re-written by H. M. Price. 'Tissue culture and electron microscopy in muscle disease' now contains so much information that it has been divided into two parts, the first on 'Ultramicroscopic studies of diseased muscle' in which G. W. Pearce has been joined by P. Hudson, and the second on 'Tissue culture in muscle disease' by K. F. A. Ross and P. Hudson, which includes a section on technique. 'Experimental myopathies' is a new chapter by B. A. Kakulas. A greatly expanded and widely embracing 'Classification of the neuromuscular disorders' and a 'Note on the clinical examination of the voluntary muscles' form a new chapter in which Professor Walton has been joined by D. Gardner-Medwin. L. A. Liversedge has changed the title of his chapter from 'The spinal muscular atrophies' to 'The central neuronal muscular atrophies and other dysfunctions of the anterior horn cells'. Some omissions from the first edition are gathered together by J. B. Foster in 'Clinical features of some miscellaneous muscular disorders'. In 'Genetic aspects of neuromuscular disease' H. W. Kloepfar has been joined by A. E. H. Emery; in 'Clinical electromyography' D. D. Barwick has joined A. T. Richardson and in 'Potential changes in the normal and diseased muscle cell' A. J. McComas has joined R. J. Johns.

All the other chapters, by the original contributors, have been revised and brought up to date. The format remains the same: the list of contents at the beginning of each chapter is very helpful. It is easy for the reader to find his way to what he wants in this book, which is of a very high standard and a mine of information.

E. J. HOLBOROW


Clinical pathologists will find this easily readable monograph of great value in that it covers the clinical, serological, and histological aspects of the hypersensitivity lung diseases. Medical microbiologists and immunologists will find a comprehensive account of the serological findings of diseases caused by aspergillii and Candida and also the serology of the Farmer's lung group of diseases. The antigens involved are described in detail, including information on their preparation. Morbid anatomical and histological appearances, however, are not given the same emphasis and in some instance are omitted or not described in detail.


Intended for the general reader this slim book will be of considerable interest to all those attracted to medicolegal matters, including police officers and surgeons, lawyers, and pathologists. It covers almost all aspects of forensic medicine, some necessarily quite superficial but all with great clarity, made possible by Professor Polson's considerable forensic experience and literary skill. Chapters on signs of death, asphyxia, and poisoning are particularly comprehensive and that on child cruelty is a beautifully balanced opinion.

Some case examples are anecdotal rather than scientific. An acknowledgement to colleagues for the latter could well have been included at the end in a general bibliography. These are minor criticisms of a paperback of outstanding value.

R. M. F. SEAL


This book records the proceedings of a two-day symposium held at the Blackburn College of Technology and Design in February 1968. The topics covered range over a wide field from the generalities of the role of computers to specific applications such as the calculation of radiation dosimetry. The only paper of real relevance to pathologists is that concerned with the handling of data in the biochemistry laboratory, but unfortunately in the copy sent to the reviewer, one page of this part of the text was missing, being replaced by a duplicate of one of the figures. Despite the practical detail given by many of the speakers, all but one of the papers can be readily followed by the non-specialist.

Very little that was new appears to have been said at this symposium and, despite the paucity of references much of the material, including illustrations, has been published before. This book will prove therefore to be of little use to those familiar with the subject, but it can be recommended to newcomers who are anxious to discover the practical relevance of the computer to medicine.

F. V. FLYNN