
General remarks concerning the WHO series entitled International Histological Classification of Tumours have been included in a review of the publication devoted to oral and oesophageal tumours.

Odontogenic tumours are seen only rarely in the practice of most pathologists. In this publication (no. 5 of the series) the authors and their collaborators have produced a slide collection and accompanying text of outstanding quality and value. The 150 transparencies include photographs illustrating the macroscopic and radiological appearances of some tumours, as well as many excellent photomicrographs. The text is characterized by a lucid and succinct style, the definition and description of each lesion being given with admirable clarity. Apart from odontogenic tumours in the strict sense, other lesions important in differential diagnosis (such as the various types of jaw cysts and dysplastic bone lesions) are discussed and illustrated.

This publication can be recommended without reservation to all histopathologists who wish to have ready access to a first class reference collection of these uncommon neoplasms.

N. F. C. GOWING


Many textbooks of dermatopathology consulted by histopathologists have been written by dermatologists who have gained their expertise in histopathology while practising their clinical specialty. Rightly or wrongly professional histopathologists view with some suspicion pronouncements in their discipline made by those who have not undergone the long training required in general pathology before specialization. No such reservation need be made when using Professor Milne’s new book. He must be near to unique in having graduated to a clinical chair after spending many of his training and practising years in a laboratory discipline.

In the tradition of his school he has written an excellent textbook for the postgraduate and practising histopathologist, based on a long experience in his specialty. The modesty of the title should not deter the potential purchaser; there is a wealth of careful analysis of dermatopathology based on accepted pathological principles, with a welcome paucity of the eponymous and descriptive terminology so prevalent in clinical dermatology. Using this book there is much less need for the practical histopathologist to turn to many of his textbooks, of framing a diagnostic report then thumbing through this standard textbook for a matching picture with an appropriate diagnosis.

The book is beautifully produced with remarkably few printing errors and lavishly illustrated. Indeed the photomicrographs are so many that they have been created, in places, that irritating juxtaposition of the wrong pictures with the text. For example the text on basal-cell carcinoma accommodates the photomicrographs of Bowen’s disease which has been discussed three pages earlier.

One can, of course, criticize, particularly the dogmatism in aspects of histogenesis of certain lesions. The statement that melanocarcinoma is a rare tumour is perhaps unfortunate depending as it does on one’s concept of rarity. It is a pity that the myth of perineural lymphatics is perpetuated as is also the term ‘squamous epithelioma’ even though it is relegated to brackets. These are very minor criticisms of a book that is a ‘must’ for all histopathology departments.

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