

Book reviews

International Histological Classification of Tumours No. 4: Histological Typing of Oral and Oropharyngeal Tumours By P. N. Wahli in collaboration with B. Cohen, Usha K. Luthra, and H. Torloni, and pathologists in 11 countries. (Pp. 27; 40 figures + 53 colour slides. Book and slides: £5.00. Book only: £1.20.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1971.

This is the fourth in the now well known WHO series devoted to an *International Histological Classification of Tumours*. The form of each publication has been standardized to comprise: (1) a book, giving the proposed classification and nomenclature of tumours and tumour-like lesions in the particular anatomical site under consideration, and illustrating with colour photomicrographs histological features; and (2) a series of 35 mm colour transparencies of the microscopic appearances of the tumours. Through the publication of this series, the WHO aims to establish an internationally agreed nomenclature for tumours and to provide institutes and individual pathologists with reference collections. The colour transparencies should also be valuable in teaching, particularly postgraduate teaching.

Whilst the series as a whole represents a splendid venture by WHO, this particular publication is disappointing. The lesions illustrated include squamous cell carcinoma, granular cell myoblastoma, congenital 'myoblastoma', pyogenic granuloma, mucocele, and peripheral giant cell granuloma. The photomicrograph of a 'benign lymphoepithelial lesion' is of poor quality. Although the text implies that soft tissue tumours of the region are not to be discussed because they 'do not differ in any essential particulars from tumours of these tissues arising elsewhere in the body', illustrations are given of traumatic neuroma, neurofibroma, neurilemmoma, and (curiously) of an alveolar soft part sarcoma. The conditions illustrated must be familiar to all histopathologists, and there can be little or no disagreement with the terminology which is that used in most standard textbooks. It is doubtful if the value of this particular collection will prove to be commensurate with the time, work, and expense which its compilation must have entailed.

N. F. C. GOWING

International Histological Classification of Tumours No. 5: Histological Typing of Odontogenic Tumours, Jaw Cysts, and Allied Lesions By J. J. Pindborg and I. R. H. Kramer in collaboration with H. Torloni. (Pp. 45; 133 figures + a set of 150 colour transparencies. Book and transparencies: £15.00. Book only: £3.60.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1971.

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

An Introduction to the Diagnostic Histopathology of the Skin By J. A. Milne. (Pp. vii + 363; illustrated. £9.00.) London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1972.

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 eponymic and descriptive terminology so prevalent in clinical dermatology. Using this book there is much less need for the practice common to many of us, of framing a descriptive report then thumbing through a standard textbook for a matching picture with an appropriate diagnosis.

The book is beautifully produced with remarkably few printing errors and is lavishly illustrated. Indeed the photomicrographs are so many that they have 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 the 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 although it is relegated to brackets. These are very minor criticisms of a book that is a 'must' for all histopathology departments.

W. B. ROBERTSON

Histochemistry, Theoretical and Applied Vol. 2, 3rd edition By A. G. Everson Pearce. (Pp. 758; 134 figures including 109 colour plates; 46 tables. £8.00.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1972.

Volume 2 of the third edition of Professor Pearce's *Histochemistry* has come at last to parturition four years after its twin, and practising pathologists and histochemists despondent over its prolonged gestation will rejoice at its birth. The simple statistical fact that the second edition had 998 pages in a single volume, while the third, 11 years later, has 1,518 pages in two gives some indication of the increase in techniques and in their clinical applica-