

Book reviews

Color Atlas and Textbook of Tissue and Cellular Pathology, 4th ed. By Walter Sandritter with the assistance of G. Beneke, W. Knoth, H. Löffler, K. Noeske, K. H. Salfelder, and J. Schorn (translated and edited by William B. Wartman). Pp. xx + 299; 492 figures including 308 colour photomicrographs and 78 electronmicrographs; 10 tables. £12.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1973. Distributed in the UK and Europe by Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books), London.

Every histopathologist who delights in beautiful colours, forms, and patterns will enjoy looking at the illustrations in this atlas. They are nearly all of an extremely high standard and many are quite arresting to the eye. Stains other than haematoxylin and eosin have been used extensively to good effect and the electron micrographs are excellent and instructive. Figure 99 illustrates the care and trouble taken in preparation. It shows fibrin threads and thrombocytes, metallic shadowing in perfect, almost three-dimensional clarity at a magnification of 3000, but also includes an inset of a single fibre with distinct cross-bands at a magnification of 100 000. As the contents cover general and special pathology, including some aspects of haematology, there has been considerable selection.

The texts to the figures are often difficult to understand and some key information is almost impossible to extract. For instance, on page 12 fig 11 is a beautiful electron micrograph of a normal mouse liver cell with 21 black or white numbers almost randomly scattered over the photograph and very difficult to locate. On the next page is figure 12 which is a diagram of a normal cell. Unfortunately the distribution of the organelles, and hence the numbering, in the diagram is quite different from the photograph. Thus one spends most of one's time trying to locate the correct numbers and places. To add to the confusion the diagram has a few more numbers than the electron micrograph.

The general text is in rather small type with many words and sentences in italics. The rationale for the italics is not always clear. With more than half the pages devoted to illustrations the whole of tissue and cellular pathology can only

be dealt with very sketchily. Even so, with only 30 pages devoted to general pathology, it is surprising to see tumours disposed of in three and a half lines.

Eight pages of 'selected references' at the back of the book is mainly composed of standard textbooks, monographs, and references to original descriptions. There appear to be no references later than 1967 and, for example, Muir's Textbook, 8th edition, 1965, is listed although the 9th edition came out in 1971.

Because of its expense the undergraduate and postgraduate is recommended to borrow the book from a library and look at the superb illustrations. The teacher in pathology could also find it useful for illustrating in small group tutorials.

E. A. WRIGHT

Tumors of the Central Nervous System (Atlas of Tumour Pathology, Second Series, Fascicle 6) By Lucien J. Rubenstein. (Pp. xviii + 400; illustrated. £5.87. Washington, D.C.: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1972.

This fascicle is a splendid addition to the 'Second Series' of the *AFIP Atlas of Tumour Pathology*. As Dr Kernohan and Dr Sayre comment in their foreword, it could well be considered a textbook of tumours of the central nervous system, since Dr Rubenstein's presentation is far more comprehensive than a mere collection of photographs. Certainly the fascicle contains over 400 illustrations, including 15 colour plates, depicting gross and microscopic pathology, and the quality of these illustrations is uniformly excellent; but there is also an extensive text in which the author describes tumour pathology in detail, and also discusses questions of histogenesis, terminology, classification, and prognosis. Consideration is also given to diagnostic 'traps' which may mislead the pathologist who is studying biopsy material. A final section considers special staining methods which may be of diagnostic value in the histological and cytological examination of neoplasms of the central nervous system; technical details of the staining procedures are not given, but the merits of the various methods are discussed. The bibliography is arranged conveniently as lists of references at the end of each section dealing with a particular tumour type, and the index lists authors' names as well as pathological states.

This excellent monograph represents a major contribution to the literature on neuro-oncology.

N. F. C. GOWING

Current Research in Oncology 1972 Edited by C. B. Anfinsen, Michael Potter, and A. N. Schechter. (Pp. x + 214; illustrated. £3.25.) New York and London: Academic Press Inc. 1973.

This book is based on eight lectures delivered at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, in January 1972. The choice of topics is wide, covering aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, and therapy of cancer. Each subject is discussed by a leading investigator in the field and the standard of presentation is, for the most part, good. The book contains a wealth of up-to-date information and the prompt publication (May 1973) is a welcome feature—though an index should have been included. Generally recommended.

RICHARD CARTER

International Symposium on Hodgkin's Disease. National Cancer Institute Monograph 36 (conference held by the Stanford University School of Medicine, California, March 1972). Edited by Joan O'Brien. (Pp. xi + 587; illustrated. \$10.40 domestic postpaid; \$9.75 GPO bookstore.) Bethesda, Maryland: Department of Health, Education and Welfare. 1973 (available from US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.)

1973 is a bumper year for new books about Hodgkin's disease. The National Cancer Institute monograph no. 36 reports the proceedings of a conference held in March 1972, dealing with all aspects of the subject from epidemiology, through virology, immunology, and pathology, to the clinical applications in diagnosis, staging, and treatment. An important book of reference for the Hodgkinologist. The general pathologist will probably be content to buy one of the two newly published books.

H. E. M. KAY

Renal Biopsy 2nd ed. By D. B. Brewer. (Pp. 103; illustrated. £4.75.) London and Maidenhead: Edward Arnold Ltd. 1973

In this new edition Professor Brewer has incorporated the most important of the