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Book reviews

Tumours of Infancy and Childhood. Edited by Peter G. Jones and Peter E. Campbell. (Pp. xvi + 975; illustrated; £26.00.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1976.

This book, by the members of staff of the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, includes chapters on aetiology and cancer therapy, immunobiology, radiological techniques, biopsy and histological techniques, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and relationships between patients, parents, and staff.

The last of these subjects is excellent, showing a compassionate approach, whereas it is difficult to cover the scope of the other chapters in the space available.

Solid tumours are grouped on a clinical regional basis which, according to the editors, 'may cause displeasure to some people. . .'. This does, however, lead to a certain amount of repetition and lack of continuity regarding particular tumour groups with duplication of illustrations. This clinical approach also includes short descriptions of non-neoplastic lesions encountered in paediatric surgical pathology. The biochemistry of sympathetic tumours is short and rather confusing, VMA being separated from MHMA, and there is some discrepancy in the units used for normal values. The illustration of 'sinus histiocytosis is difficult to distinguish from a reactive lesion.

The appendix provides informative tables including data on 1689 children's tumours, and there are extensive references.

This is essentially a clinical book with excellent radiographs throughout, and such a broad coverage of the subject has not previously been included in a single volume.

H. B. MARSDEN

Lecture Notes on Urology. By John Blandy. (Pp. 326; illustrated; £5.60.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1976.

These notes, written in a racy style, cover the whole field of modern urology and are illustrated with many line drawings; in general, these are apt and good, though some of the caricatures of histological

appearances are unnecessarily crude. There are a few relatively minor errors of detail in several descriptions of pathological findings. Undergraduates will surely welcome the dogmatic and rational approach to diagnosis, investigation, and treatment. Each chapter includes a guide to further reading, and of particular value is the chapter describing and illustrating the principles of the commoner urological operations.

R. C. B. PUGH

Histopathology of the Liver (BMT18), 1st edition. By P. J. Scheuer. (24 colour slides and legends; £9.10.) London: Baillière Tindall. 1976.

This visual aid, consisting of 24 colour transparencies and legends, is the latest in the series of Baillière's Medical Transparencies which the general editor states '... are intended to supplement demonstrations and lectures to medical and dental students, nurses, radiographers, postgraduate students and all who are concerned with clinical problems. . .'. Clearly, with such a wide and unsophisticated audience in mind, the author has made no attempt to describe in the detail required for differential histological diagnosis the various disorders which are illustrated, viz, hepatitis, biliary disease, drug-induced liver injury, alcoholic hepatitis, and a limited range of metabolic disorders and tumours. Thus it will be of little value to pathologists (in training or established), and those who seek guidance on the classification of disorders of the liver will also be disappointed. However, there is no doubt that each transparency and succinct explanatory note are near perfect, though on a number of occasions one is led to wish for more, eg, an orcein stain on the 'ground glass' cells in slide 36 would be informative, as would details of the granulomata in the slide of primary biliary cirrhosis. Would not the edge of the adenoma have been more informative than the centre?

There is no doubt that this publication would be of value to those preparing for examinations in which the identification of colour transparencies is a feature, and the occasional lecturer who does not have facilities for taking microphotographs