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ABBREVIATIONS In general, symbols and abbreviations should be those used by the *Biochemical Journal*.

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The photographs were taken by Mr P Luton, electron microscopist at University College Hospital.

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- ¹ Howes VJ, Mitchell RG. Meningitis due to relatively penicillin-resistant pneumococcus. *Brit Med J* 1976; 1:996.
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- penicillin-resistant pneumococcus in immunodeficient child. *Lancet* 1979;2:956.
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 - ⁵ Jacobs MR, Gaspar MN, Robins-Browne RM, Koornhof HJ. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of pneumococci. 2. Determination of optimal disc diffusion test for detection of penicillin G resistance. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1980;6:53-64.

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isolated from impetigo and sycosis barbae. *Lancet* 1955;2:378.

¹¹ Van Toorn MJ. On the staphylococcal and streptococcal etiology of impetigo. *Dermatologica (Basel)* 1961; 123:391.

Requests for reprints to: Itzhak Brook, MD, MS Infectious Disease and Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Children's Hospital National Medical Center, 111 Michigan Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20010, USA.

The October 1980 Issue

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Review article

Cobalamins and nitrous oxide: a review I CHANARIN

Monocytes in inflammatory bowel disease: absolute monocyte counts AS MEE, J BERNEY, AND DP JEWELL

Monocytes in inflammatory bowel disease: phagocytosis and intracellular killing AS MEE, M SZAWA-TAKOWSKI, AND DP JEWELL

Processing haematological data on a dedicated computer MG NELSON, CL FARRINGTON, JD ROGERS, AND GW PURDY

Immunochemical and ultrastructural study of multiple myeloma with a heavy chain protein in the serum C BARTOLINI, G FLAMINI, N GENTILONI, MA RUSSO, C BARONE, G GAMBASSI, AND T TERRANOVA

Haematological characteristics in the β^0 thalassaemia trait in Sardinian children R GALANELLO, S DE VIRGILIIS, M ADDIS, E PAGLIETTI, R RUGGERI, AND A CAO

Chronic liver disease in transfusion-dependent thalassaemia: hepatitis B virus marker studies S DE VIRGILIIS, G FIORELLI, S FARGION, G CORNACCHIA, G SANNA, P COSSU, V MURGIA, AND A CAO

Anti-A haemagglutinins in factor VIII concentrates JK SMITH, PJ BOWELL, E BIDWELL, AND HH GUNSON

Evaluation of an AutoAnalyzer method for quantitating anti-A and anti-B haemagglutinins in factor VIII preparations PJ BOWELL, S ABDALLA, TJ SNAPE, AND HH GUNSON

Platelet monoamine oxidase activity in megaloblastic anaemia V GLOVER, M SANDLER, A HUGHES, AND AV HOFFBRAND

Vitamin D binding globulin levels and affinity in various clinical conditions IRF BROWN, ANITA SOOD AND ND CARTER

Familial hypouricaemia associated with renal tubular uricosuria and uric acid calculi: case report JM HEDLEY AND PJ PHILLIPS

Determination of plasma malondialdehyde-like material and its clinical application in stroke patients MT SANTOS, J VALLES, J AZNER, AND J VILCHES

Quantitation of C3 subcomponents on red cells coated with complement *in vitro* J FREEDMAN AND ANNE MASSEY

Spontaneous calcific embolisation: necropsy X-ray study I STEINER AND A HLAVA

Serial urinary and cervical cytological studies in women undergoing renal transplantation CJH INGOLDBY, NA MCWHINNEY, E WACHTEL, AND JE CASTRO

False negative hepatitis B surface antigen detection in dialysis patients due to excess surface antigen: postzone phenomenon LG HEFTER, MARY A HIX, MICHELLE STONER, AND CB COOK

Light-scattering methods for antibiotic sensitivity tests J MURRAY, P EVANS AND DWL HULKINS

Antimicrobial susceptibilities of *Clostridium difficile* R SHUTTLEWORTH, MILDRED TAYLOR, AND DM JONES

Faecal carriage of group B streptococci AKMS ISLAM AND ELIZABETH THOMAS

Technical methods

A systematic error in pH-stat assays of enzymes in haemolysates PFJ NEWMAN AND IA NIMMO

Fixation and immunohistochemistry of lymphoid tissue A LEATHEM AND N ATKINS

Letters to the Editors

Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON WC1H 9JR, price £3.00, including postage

Ultrastructural Pathology, which is well illustrated with both light and electron micrographs, will perform a useful function.

JULIE CROW

Gastro-intestinal Pathology. BC Morson and IMP Dawson. (Pp xiv + 805; illustrated; £32.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

As expected, the first edition established itself as a standard work. Seven years later, how does the second edition differ?

The new edition is 130 pages (20%) longer. Chapters are similar, with a restructured chapter on the large bowel adenoma-carcinoma sequence and a new chapter on laboratory techniques. There are 88 (40%) more photographs, and some of the old ones have been improved. The paper is worse and the photographic detail slightly less clear. References have gone up by 450 (80%) and the price by an extra £20.50 (170%).

The text is less changed than the illustrations. Amid so much that is admirable it is possible to comment on only a few small details. It is a surprise to see the use of the term 'intramucosal carcinoma' in colonic adenomas rejected on the grounds that it may cause overtreatment by surgeons; and tubular adenomas are inconsistently referred to as adenomatous polyps. We might have hoped for more about the diffuse endocrine system of the gastro-intestinal tract, but the sectional layout of the book makes this difficult. Over 50 of the photographs and legends are still printed at right angles to the text, often needlessly. The new chapter on technique does not give guidance on the problem of fixation of autolysing diseased intestinal mucosa in the postmortem room where brief fixation and the avoidance of handling and water may give surprisingly good results. There is still no author index.

The authors have not resisted the temptation to reproduce a similar successful product and the new 'Morson and Dawson' is still recognisably the same. Inevitably it is bigger, but it is also better, and in view of the excellence of the first edition this is no mean achievement.

RAB DRURY

Steroid Receptors and the Management of Cancer. Vol. 1 Ed EB Thompson and ME Lippman. (Pp 248; illustrated; £44.75.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

Undoubtedly, one of the major achievements in the field of hormone-related cancers over the past 20 years has been the recognition of the association of steroid receptors and neoplasia, their management, and clinical application.

The present volume, entitled 'Clinically Oriented Studies', is the first of two volumes, the second concentrating on experimental systems. It consists of 15 chapters detailing studies carried out in human breast cancer (4 chapters), leukaemia, prostate, and endometrium (2 chapters each), and a single chapter on each of hypernephroma, melanoma, and nasopharyngeal tumours. The final chapters consist of an account of the new synthetic steroids from Roussel and a useful chapter outlining some of the pitfalls in methodology.

The book must be recommended on the basis of the diversity of tumour types that the authors encompass. There are few other works that attempt to review the evidence for links with steroids and so many human tumours. Of course, the example for a hormone-sensitive tumour *par excellence* is human breast cancer: we will all look to progress in this field for ways of studying the others. Until the exact interrelationships of steroid hormones, peptide growth factors, stromal tissues, and other mediators of hormone actions are more clearly delineated in breast cancer, advances in these fields with other tumours will be hard to come by.

RC COOMBS

Notices

National Viscosity Meeting

A one-day meeting on Viscosity of Blood and Body Fluids will be held on 10 December 1980 at 10 am in the Kennedy Lecture Theatre, Institute of Child Health, London. For information please write to the Joint Secretaries, Dr S Roath and Dr B Warburton, Department of Haematology, Level C, Room 84, South Laboratory and Pathology Block, Southampton General Hospital, Tremona Road, Southampton SO9 4XY.

Benjamin Castleman Award

For the purpose of promoting those high ideals of teaching, practice, and research in pathology which Dr Benjamin Castleman imbued in his associates, trainees,

and students, the Trustees of The Massachusetts General Hospital announce the first Benjamin Castleman Award for an outstanding paper in the field of human pathology published in English during the calendar year 1980. The subject may represent any topic in pathology but must be based on human material with emphasis on morphological or anatomical approaches. In papers with multiple authorship only one author is eligible. The awardee must be a pathologist or pathologist-in-training who has not yet reached his 40th birthday in 1980. Papers by pathology residents, trainees, and fellows are encouraged. The prize will consist of a cheque for \$1000 and a plaque.

Nominations should consist of 10 reprints (or preprints) of the manuscript and a letter attesting to the nominee's age and dates and places of residency training, and role in the investigation if other than the first author.

Nominations should be submitted before 15 January 1981 to: Sanford I Roth, MD, Secretary, The Award Committee, Benjamin Castleman Award, c/o Department of Pathology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4301 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72205, USA.

International Association of Oral Pathologists

First General Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden, 1 to 4 June 1981. To be held in association with the Scandinavian Society of Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine. Further information from Dr Guy Heyden, PO Box 33070, S-400, Gothenburg, Sweden.

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