

and no drift in pH was detected over this period. It seems relevant that heparin has been shown to remain stable over a pH range of 2.0-9.0.<sup>6</sup>

Our findings are in agreement with those of others<sup>6,7</sup> that heparin is stable in intravenous fluids under clinical conditions. Hence the administration of heparin by continuous intravenous infusion should not be regarded as a sub-optimal method on this account.

GA SHAH, TZ DHALL, IA FERGUSON,  
MR DAVIS, DP DHALL  
*Vascular Laboratory and Pharmacy,  
Woden Valley Hospital,  
Canberra, ACT, Australia*

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## Book reviews

**Primary Intracranial Neoplasms.** Ed JH Sher and DH Ford. (Pp 174; illustrated; £10.50.) Spectrum Publications. 1980.

This little book is basically the Proceedings of a Symposium on Primary Intracranial Neoplasms originally sponsored by the Brooklyn Unit of the American Cancer Society. The first chapter is a useful review of experimental models of neoplasia in the central nervous system, and this is followed by several clinically orientated chapters including computed tomography. The next chapter is a reasonably well illustrated account of the electron microscopy of brain tumours, and then there is a very brief, poorly illustrated review of the cytological diagnosis—mainly CSF cytology—of brain tumours. The final chapters deal with surgical treatment and chemotherapy.

There is really not very much in this book for general pathologists. The symposium was, however, organised to provide a review of present knowledge concerning the biological behaviour, diagnosis, and treatment of primary brain tumours. It is a brief review that probably achieves its aim, and doctors in various disciplines with an interest in primary brain tumours may well find it useful reading.

JH ADAMS

**Chemical Diagnosis of Disease.** Ed S Brown, FL Mitchell, and DS Young. (Pp xviii + 1383; illustrated; \$74.75.) Elsevier North Holland Inc. 1979.

This book was written to meet the demand for authoritative and integrated information on the interpretative aspects of clinical chemistry tests. There are over 1300 pages covering a wide range of subjects written by authors of international repute. Topics that are particularly well covered include enzymes, liver function, inborn errors of metabolism, neurogenic amines, and cancer. Chapters on nutrition, parenteral therapy, and paediatric biochemistry would have added to its value.

The absence of reference ranges in a number of chapters reduces its diagnostic value as a reference book in a number of clinical situations. The title is misleading and perhaps one such as 'The Clinical Chemistry of Disease' would make a greater impact on our medical colleagues

who would benefit from the information in this book.

The binding is poor and the price of £38.25 is beyond the pocket of most students. Nonetheless, it fills a much-needed gap, and I recommend it to both medical and departmental libraries and to those who can afford it.

BM SLAVIN

**Renal Pathology.** EM Darmady and A MacIver. Postgraduate Pathology Series. Ed Sir Theo Crawford. (Pp xii + 548; illustrated; £35.) Butterworths. 1980.

This book forms one of a postgraduate pathology series and is intended for pathologists in training and for pathologists and nephrologists investigating renal disease, particularly those working in isolation. The book is a departure from the large and increasing number of textbooks on renal pathology in that it emphasises the authors' interests in those aspects of renal pathology concerned with microdissection techniques, morphometric studies of age changes in the kidney, malformations, and renal abnormalities associated with metabolic diseases. There is however adequate coverage of other conditions likely to be encountered in everyday nephrological practice. The authors have an easy style of writing, and the book is well illustrated. At the end of each chapter there is a long list of references. In future editions it would be desirable for these to be reviewed, and many of the older references could be omitted without much loss. The final chapter deals with microdissection and immunofluorescence techniques. This book will form a useful addition to the library of those interested in renal pathology.

JR TIGHE

**Lecture Notes on Clinical Chemistry.** 2nd ed. LG Whitby, IW Percy-Robb, and AF Smith. (Pp xiv + 504; illustrated; £7.75.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1980.

The selection and interpretation of chemical investigations are of great importance to newly qualified doctors who should develop a critical approach to the request for such tests. The foundation for this approach must be laid in the teaching of medical studies in the clinical