

³ Berry CL, Fraser GC. The experimental production of colitis in the rabbit with particular reference to Hirschsprung's disease *J Pediatr Surg* 1968;3:36-42.

Book reviews

Tumors of the Lower Respiratory Tract. 2nd series. Atlas of Tumour Pathology. D Carter and JC Eggleston. (Pp 361; illustrated; \$15.00.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington. 1980.

Carter & Eggleston have made an excellent job of rewriting Tumors of the Lower Respiratory Tract. This 17th fascicle of the 2nd series replaces Liebow's 1952 edition and is a worthy successor. The all-too-common bronchogenic carcinomas are of course well covered but these fascicles are just as much consulted for information on the oddities and I could detect no omissions in this area. The rarer neoplasms are dealt with succinctly and sections on inflammatory pseudo-tumours and hamartomas ensure full coverage of primary and secondary tumours of the lower respiratory tract, including the pleura. The nomenclature used follows the WHO classification fairly closely and seems eminently sensible. It is based essentially on histogenesis and the book commences with an outline of lung development and normal structure. This is followed by an interesting chapter on tumour detection, localisation, and staging which touches on the various biopsy techniques of use in this area and provides an excellent account of cytological diagnosis. The many illustrations are of high quality and special praise is due for the colour plates of cytological abnormalities. Electron microscopy is not neglected but most of the pictures are of good quality black and white photomicrographs. This volume will be invaluable to the diagnostic histo-and cytopathologist.

B CORRIN

The Lymphocyte. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 58. Eds KW Sell and WV Miller. (Pp 242; illustrated; £23.20.) Allan R Liss inc. 1981.

In a symposium held in 1980 most of the very diverse aspects of lymphocyte function were considered. The reviews vary from a three-page summary on T-cell analysis by monoclonal antibodies to

12-15 pages on topics such as the structure, disease associations, and role in cytotoxicity of the HLA system. Knowledge on immune regulation and its disorders, on lymphokines, and on NK cells is summarised, and two sections deal with lymphocyte culture and the role of lymphocytes in erythropoiesis. Other topics—thymic hormones, biochemical defects of lymphocytes, and the therapeutic potential of cultured thymus fragments, as well as the immunological analysis of ALL—have a more direct clinical relevance. The quality of the contributions is high and in such a fast-moving subject this volume is a very acceptable help in keeping (almost) up to date.

HEM KAY

Theory and Practice of Histotechnology. 2nd ed. DC Sheehan and BB Hrapchak. (Pp 481; illustrated; £21.) YB Medical Publishers Ltd. 1980.

This is a strongly bound and well-indexed histopathology laboratory bench book which should have staying power and be easy to use. The first chapter, consisting mainly of details of the use of automatic tissue processors and knife sharpeners, gives an unfortunate impression that histopathological technique is more a matter of machinery than of science or skill. The following chapters correct this as the theory and scientific basis, as well as the practice, of histological techniques are described. The laboratory office staff and those who prepare or report stained sections have something to learn from this book as the text includes glossaries of medical and scientific terms, work flow charts, transatlantic health and safety practices, and quality control programmes in addition to the usual technical methods.

RAB DRURY

Clinical Biochemistry Reviews. Vol 2. Ed DM Goldberg. (Pp 433; illustrated; £17.) John Wiley & Sons Limited. 1981.

The stated purpose of these reviews is to summarise in a critical fashion the important papers in each of the areas covered over a single calendar year. They are concise and well written. Fourteen topics are covered, varying from Laboratory Management to Toxicology, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, and the Biochemical Aspects of Genetic Disease. Each is discussed by an expert in his own

field and, as one might expect, the commentaries are pertinent and precise concerning the situation up to the end of 1979.

The attractiveness or otherwise of such a book is really determined by the degree of specialisation of the reader. Few practitioners in the clinical biochemistry field have a particular interest in more than two or three of the topics covered, and if one does not have this updating of papers on a yearly basis is not really relevant, particularly at a cost of £17.00 per copy.

This book could fulfil a distinct need—the individual sections could be published as separate entities—or at least in groups of related topics. This would enable one to have access to critical reviews in one's own field of interest, and with the yearly updating lead to a much needed reduction in "literature research" time.

GW PENNINGTON

Brain Biopsy. The Smear Technique for Neurosurgical Biopsies. J Hume Adams, DI Graham and D Doyle. (Pp 124; illustrated; £15.) Chapman & Hall. 1981.

The smear technique is important in neurosurgical biopsies and this book is the only detailed authoritative work on the technique currently available. It is based on the extensive experience of the three neuropathologists of the Glasgow Institute of Neurological Sciences where it has been in use for the past 20 years.

The text, though brief, is generally adequate and is concise but not didactic. The pros and cons of the smear technique, v frozen sections are discussed and a convincing case made in favour of smears in all but a few diagnostic situations. The sections on artefacts and diagnostic pitfalls are useful and the approach practical throughout.

Black and white photographs of smears and related paraffin sections take up over two thirds of the book. All those who have attempted to photograph smear preparations will know how difficult it is to get good results and it is therefore not surprising that some of the illustrations, especially at low magnification, lack definition and fail to display their points clearly. Nevertheless the book is a valuable aid and will prove especially helpful to those coming to the technique for the first time.

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