recurrent infection. The strains of *Bacteroides* tested also showed considerable susceptibility to Josamycin and erythromycin; however, these drugs excited a bacteriostatic effect only—a feature which might be important when treatment of immunosuppressed patients is being considered. Finally, although resistance arising after a single exposure to an antimicrobial agent is very uncommon, this has been observed with clindamycin—a phenomenon that merits further investigation.

The relevance of these in vitro findings for the treatment of *B fragilis* infections in immunosuppressed patients requires further investigation.

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References

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Accuracy of morphological diagnosis of lung cancer in a department of respiratory medicine

In a recent paper¹ we suggested methods for improving the quality of specimens taken at fiberoptic bronchoscopy. We now report two techniques which have resulted in an increased yield of malignant cells and tumour tissue.

Withdrawal of the cytology brush through the specimen channel of the bronchoscope may deposit tumour cells on the side of the channel and secretions aspirated from around a tumour may be retained in the channel and thus not be obtained for cytology. In a series of 50 patients with primary bronchial carcinoma we examined as an additional specimen, the material obtained on cleaning the bronchoscope channel.² This resulted in an 88% yield of malignant cells compared with a 78% yield when brushings and aspirates only were examined.

The yield of malignant tissue from bronchial biopsies in our original series was poor

(53%) and specimens were usually taken with the "standard" Olympus biopsy forceps. The use of Olympus forceps with alligator (toothed) jaws with their better "bite" has improved the overall yield to 71% and in patients with incontrovertible evidence of endobronchial tumour, a yield of 86% has been obtained.

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Book reviews

Pathology of Granulomas and Neoplasms of the Nose and Paranasal Sinuses. Imrich Friedmann and Denis A Osborn. (Pp 306; illustrated; £30.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

This attractively produced and reasonably priced volume is based on the extensive experiences of two experts working at the Institute of Laryngology and Otology of the University of London. The book is divided into 24 chapters covering Granulomatous Diseases (9) and the bulk of the volume (14) covering Neoplasms. An opening chapter provides a useful description of the normal histology of the region. Though giving extensive coverage many of the chosen subjects are rare and even esoteric. Each chapter is written with a common format combined with a historical introduction including aetiology and pathogenesis, which to the reviewer should be at the beginning and not towards the end of the chapters. The gross appearances of the lesion is briefly described with the main emphasis on histology. Each chapter is extensively illustrated including many electron micrographs with very adequate historic and recent references.

Surprisingly Nasal Polyposis is grouped with rare miscellaneous granulomas including Eosinophilic Granulomas and the exceptionally rare Myospherulosis, which appears to be collections of red cells con-

tained within petroleum based ointment "bags." As expected the majority (90%) of up to 600–700 polyps seen in one year were allergic. Though now very rare Tuberculosis merits a short chapter as does Sarcoidosis, though in the latter there is an over-emphasis on the possible infective nature of the disease. Leprosy, Syphilis and Yaws are included. Rhinosporidiosis and Rhinoscleroma also perhaps surprisingly merit a whole chapter, though rarely going to be met by hospital pathologists. Other mycotic and parasitic infections are adequately covered. The chapter on midfacial granuloma syndrome was read with interest as being a speciality of the senior author who concludes that the condition is inflammatory and not neoplastic, though no consistent single organism has been isolated. They distinguished Wegner's granuloma by the presence of vasculitis and involvement of other organs.

The extensive coverage of tumours is preceded by the authors' own classification which is broadly in line with the 1978 WHO publication. In the description of papillomas the term "transitional type" obviates confusion with the non-existent transitional cell though the term "transitional cell carcinomas" is still used—perhaps "basiloid" would be a better term. Overclassification is often apparent. Tumours of mucous glands are subdivided into nine histological types, though 60% are considered malignant. Again in the tumour section rare and very rare lesions are described at length for example malignant fibrohistiocytoma. There is a useful account of fibrous dysplasia and the distinction between giant cell reparative granuloma and giant cell tumour.

Despite the above comment this volume is a useful reference book for general histopathologists and a "must" for specialists, pathologists and surgeons in the field.

W JONES WILLIAMS

Radioimmunoassay of Antibody and its Clinical Applications. D Parratt, H McKenzie, KH Nielsen, and SJ Cobb. (Pp 156; illustrated; £15.) John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 1982.

An attempt to bring together the practical and scientific aspects of radioimmunoassay for antibody is successfully achieved in this book. The first chapters explain in commendable detail the concept behind such assays and provide a practical guidance for the worker with no experience in this field. Detailed recipes are provided which are backed up by useful bibliographies. The second part of the book reviews in detail

the clinical applications of such measurements.

The specific response of infection and allergy has of course been used for many years in one form or another for diagnosing and monitoring disease. However, it is surprising how little the sensitivity of radioimmunoassay has been exploited in this field. This book discusses the use of such assays for the management of allergy together with the benefits of *in vitro* measurement over skin testing. Examples are given of antibody measurement in various forms of infection such as extrinsic allergic alveolitis, brucellosis and candidiasis allowing readers to see the wider potential in fields of their own interest. A brief discussion of immune complex assays is included though not in enough detail to be very useful. A brief but wide-ranging review of antibody measurement in general includes anti-idiotypic and allotypic antibodies, anti-tumour antibodies and antibodies to drugs. For those in non-medical fields a chapter on veterinary applications is included.

Overall a fascinating and useful book which certainly whets the appetite. It brings together ideas from diverse fields of pathology and should be of interest to clinical pathologist and researcher alike.

JT WHICHER

Cushing's Syndrome. Monographs on Endocrinology. Vol 22. DT Krieger. (Pp 142; illustrated; DM 88; US\$41.00.) Springer-Verlag. 1982.

Cushing's Syndrome is a distinguished addition to this series of monographs on endocrinology. Although it is not common in practice, the disentangling of the clinical enigma of overactivity of the adrenal cortex has and continues to yield information of wide biological interest. Dr. Krieger has herself made a signal contribution in this field.

The organisation of the book is conventional with chapters on the regulation of ACTH secretion (including reference to the isolation and structure of CRF reported in 1981) and ACTH action. Two thirds of the book, however, is concerned with clinical manifestations, investigation, and treatment of Cushing's syndrome. The emphasis is mostly on Cushing's disease and consideration of treatment of the more common condition of ectopic ACTH production is cursory. Nevertheless this is an admirable, up-to-date, and well referenced monograph.

RL HIMSWORTH

The Pathology and Management of Thyroid Disease. Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Vol 10 No 2. Guest ed ED Williams. (Pp 161; illustrated; £9.75.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1981.

The general excellence of the "Clinics" monographs is due to the choice of well-known and widely travelled editors who are personally acquainted with the specialists in their field. Experts usually agree to participate in a well conceived volume when they respect the editor. The additional advantage of the "Clinics" is their rapid publication. In this series only six months elapse between writing a review and its appearance in print, whereas most symposia and textbooks may linger for two to four years before they see the light of day. This slim volume is particularly helpful to any one involved in diagnosis or treatment of thyroid disorders because it deals succinctly with several controversial areas in thyroid pathology. Some chapters are written by surgeons and others by renowned pathologists and cytologists from Scandinavia, France, UK, and USA. Fine needle aspiration biopsy/cytology is well covered and needs to be taken up much more widely than it has been so far. The older method of large needle biopsy never became popular as it so often required general anaesthesia, which seemed unfair on the patient. Other controversies covered are the occurrence of malignancy in dysmorphogenetic goitres of after neck irradiation, thyroid inclusions in lymph nodes, the relationship between thyroid lymphomas and autoimmune thyroiditis, and the whole subject of medullary calcitonin tumours, sporadic and hereditary. The contributions are so attractively written and illustrated that reading this book truly combines business with pleasure.

DEBORAH DONIACH

Notices

International Symposium on Progress in Perinatal Medicine

This symposium will be held in Florence, Italy, 10-12 May 1983. Topics will include: Perspective in fetal diagnosis; RIA in the antenatal evaluation of normal fetus; placental proteins and hormones; Alternative methods for Toxoplasma, Rubella, Viruses; Immune response to fetus; Clinical diagnostic techniques and laboratory methods for congenital malformations and diseases. For information, please contact: A Albertini, Institute of Chemistry, School of Medicine, Via Valsabbina, 1 Brescia, Italy.

Heinz Karger Prizes

The Heinz Karger Memorial Foundation invites the submission of papers on the following subjects:

- 1983: An original research paper or review summarising an author's personal contributions to "cellular ageing".
- 1984: An original research paper on "Invasion and metastasis" (concerning either basic or clinical investigations in order to shed light on the process of malignant dissemination).

In 1983, the Foundation will commemorate its 20th anniversary by granting an award of Sw Fr 20 000. In 1984, the prize carries a cash award of Sw Fr 10 000. For further information (including rules for manuscript preparation) please contact: S Karger AG, BASEL, Auschwilerstrasse 10, CH-4001 Basel.

Correction

In the Technical method by Davies *et al* in the issue of July 1982, the source of reference 8 should read *J Pathol* 1982;137:60.

Reference

- ¹ Davies JD, Young EW. Congo blue: a rapid stain for elastic fibres. *J Clin Pathol* 1982;35:789.