

## Book reviews

**How to Write and Publish Papers in the Medical Sciences.** Edward J Huth. (Pp 203; \$20-95.) ISI Press. 1982.

Edward Huth is the editor of one of the major medical journals and thus well aware of the very mixed quality of current medical writing and well qualified to write on the subject. Furthermore he places me as reviewer in a unique position because chapter 9 of his book tells me how to write a review while chapters 10, 11 and 12 deal respectively with the first draft, revising content and structure, and revising prose style; all are full of good advice. Other chapters deal with the different sorts of paper one may be tempted to write; for example case-reports, case-series and reviews, research papers, editorials, and each stage in the planning, writing, re-writing, submission to a journal, proof-reading etc. is separately considered. There are some wise words on that thorniest of questions, authorship, where an early decision is recommended: "no failure in scholarly procedure is more likely to breed ill-will and wreck friendships than putting off decisions about authorship to a time when failure to agree may bring unpleasant consequences and even damage careers".

Given that the best advice on medical writing is still to be found in *Richard Asher Talking Sense*, this book, less flamboyant but more comprehensive and systematic, is a more helpful source for reference. Let us hope it will succeed in encouraging more doctors to write, not more papers, but better papers.

HEM KAY

**Immunoneuropathology.** Clinics in Immunology. Vol 2 no 2. Ed BH Wakeman. (Pp 485; illustrated; £11-75.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1982.

Twelve well-referenced chapters written by acknowledged experts in the fields of neuroimmunology, neurology and neuropathology, make up this volume. The relative roles of cell mediated immunity and antibody against various constituents of the nervous system, obtained from the study of both human disease and laboratory investigations, are discussed in detail. The demyelinating disorders are covered in depth, considerable attention being given to multiple sclerosis and the animal model of experimental allergic encephalomyelitis. Other important diseases with an underlying

immunological basis, such as Guillain-Barré syndrome and myasthenia gravis, are also considered. There are also several chapters on the immunological responses of the nervous system to various viruses including certain aspects of both the slow and persistent types.

Many of the recent advances have depended upon the use of modern techniques, e.g. monoclonal antibodies, that have allowed the identification of T lymphocytes and their subsets, immunoglobulins, immune complexes, the interferon-natural killer system, and HLA associations. Inevitably some of the descriptions are a bit technical but in the main the book has been written in language that can be understood by the "non-expert". Overall it makes interesting reading and gives a fascinating account of recent advances in a subject that appears to hold the key to some of the more common and important neurological disorders. This book is therefore warmly recommended to those with an interest in neuroimmunology.

DI GRAHAM

**Bone Marrow Biopsies Revisited.** A New Dimension for Hematologic Malignancies. Ed R Bartle, B Frisch, R Burkhardt. (Pp 94; illustrated; Sw fr 58.) S Karger. 1982.

Many pathologists are aware that marrow biopsies are often unsatisfactory and that histological preparations based on paraffin sections following decalcification leave a lot to be desired. This book demonstrates the results which can be obtained when these problems are approached by modern technological methods and represents a remarkable experience of the histopathological aspects of haemic malignancy. While Professor Burkhardt's myelotomy drill may seem rather formidable, it undoubtedly facilitates more extensive investigation than is possible with standard methods. While the plastic embedding of undecalcified material which clearly provides better histological preparations than decalcified paraffin sections is central to the study, the benefits of immunohistochemistry applied to frozen sections and of histometric techniques are also impressive. Pathologists will be enlightened by this wide ranging analysis of marrow pathology, and in particular those chapters concerned with myeloproliferative states and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and will be encouraged to devote more attention to this neglected field of pathology.

FD LEE

**Self-Defense Mechanisms. Role of Macrophages.** A Naito Foundation Symposium. Ed D Mizuno, ZA Cohn, K Takeya, N Ishida. (Pp 343; illustrated; \$83-00.) Elsevier Biomedical Press. 1982.

The proceedings of a symposium held in Tokyo in November 1981 are presented in this book. The primary interest was in macrophages, and there are papers on macrophage phylogeny and ontogeny, surface markers, monokines and lymphokines, antigen-presentation and effector mechanisms. The papers are a useful mixture: some describe experimental observations, others are general reviews. The volume contains a subject index and transcripts of the participant discussions which followed each presentation at the symposium, the latter an especially valuable feature in controversial fields.

TJ CHAMBERS

**Melanoma: Histological Diagnosis and Prognosis.** Vincent J McGovern. (Pp 197; illustrated; \$60-76.) Raven Press. 1982.

This volume, the third offering in the new "Biopsy Interpretation Series" deals with the diagnosis and prognosis of cutaneous melanocytic lesions. The first part of the text, concerned with benign proliferations, includes a full discussion of the usual as well as the unusual features of freckles and naevi and presents guidelines for differentiating between benign, atypical, and pre-malignant melanocytic hyperplasia. The second half of the monograph is devoted to malignant disease, with descriptions of the histological types of melanoma and examination of the pathological features which correlate with prognosis. Methods of treating these neoplasms, and other clinical aspects, are also covered. The whole book is lavishly illustrated with high quality, black and white photomicrographs with, in addition, a series of colour plates depicting the macroscopic features of various melanocytic lesions.

The author has shared his wide experience in this field in a manner which is both comprehensive and clear. This volume will be of great value to pathologists who deal with cutaneous biopsies, providing that they can raise the necessary capital.

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