Book reviews

Atlas of Diagnostic Gastrointestinal Cytology. M Takeda (Pp 229; \$66.) Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers Inc. 1983.

Widespread use of fiberoptic endoscopy and fine needle aspiration guided by a variety of imaging techniques has rapidly enlarged the field of cytopathology and led to publication of a growing number of monographs on the cytopathology of single organs or body systems. This atlas of diagnostic gastrointestinal cytology is a welcome addition.

The book is generously illustrated with good quality half-tone and colour photographs. The limitations of an atlas are avoided because there is a substantial text which gives a historical review as well as descriptions of cytological and histological appearances covering the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract, pancreas, liver, and biliary tree. The account of preinvasive dysplasia of the oesophagus based on the Chinese experience of screening high risk populations with an inflatable abrasive balloon and the descriptions of the cytology of early and advanced gastric cancer are of particular interest. The author has collaborated with radiologists as well as pathologists at Jefferson Medical College to give detailed accounts of the methods for obtaining specimens for cytodiagnosis during percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography and using modern imaging techniques for guidance of fine needle aspiration.

This is a well produced book which will be of value to pathologists concerned with diagnostic cytology of gastrointestinal disease.

ELIZABETH HUDSON

Symposium on Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue. Ed WH Akeson, P Bornstein and MJ Glimcher. (Pp 380; illustrated; £43.50.) Year Book Medical Publishers Ltd. 1982.

These are the opulently produced proceedings of a symposium held in San Diego in 1980 and published two years later. Nevertheless they contain a wideranging account of molecular abnormalities of collagen genes and proteins as reflected by various diseases such as Osteogenesis

imperfecta, various types of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and certain of the inherited chondrodystrophies. All these diseases are now amenable to the molecular approach which has been so successful in unravelling the more common, much simpler haemoglobinopathies. The contributors include most of the recognised American investigators with a few notable exceptions.

All the essential biochemical information current at the time of the symposium is covered including the by now mandatory techniques of gene cloning and characterisation. Already this field is moving very fast and gene deletions, insertions, and polymorphisms in various collagen types are very close to detection. This provides an interesting and up-to-date account for all relevant workers in this field including molecular biologists, biochemistry medical geneticists, paediatricians, orthopaedic surgeons, and metabolic physicians, although at £43.50 most people are likely to read their library copy rather than purchase their own.

FM POPE

Thalassemia: Recent Advances in Detection and Treatment. March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Birth Defects: Original Article Series, Vol 18, no 7, 1982. Ed A Cao, U Carcassi and PT Rowley. (Pp 377; £57.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

This volume contains the papers presented at the International Symposium held in June 1981 in Cagliari, Sardinia, and sponsored by March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. It is divided into five main sections: molecular biology and genetics of thalassaemia syndromes; regulation of globin chain expression; thalassaemia types in Italy; pathophysiology and clinical aspects; and finally treatment of thalassaemia.

The volume shows most of the advantages and the disadvantages of publishing proceedings: it is a combination of exciting, esoteric, and dull, but it also succeeds in covering virtually every aspect of thalassaemia from molecular biology to public health and epidemiology. It is a surprisingly easy and interesting volume to read and a useful addition to the increasingly complex literature on thalassaemia syndromes.

Sadly, its price is so high that few individuals will be able to afford it.

MILICA BROZOVIC

Tumors of the Central Nervous System. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. Supplement Fascicle 6, 2nd series. Lucien J Rubinstein (Pp 33; \$4.75.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1982.

This slim supplement contains four topics. There is an account of some recent work on experimental brain tumours, particularly the use of oncogenic viruses. Professor Rubinstein maintains that the cranio-spinal haemangio-pericytoma is a different entity from the angioblastic meningioma and produces ultrastructural evidence to prove it. Pineal tumours are so rare, particularly true pineocytomas, that the evidence about their histogenesis produced here is very interesting. Finally there is a good survey of the use of immunostaining for GFA protein in diagnostic neuropathology.

BARBARA F SMITH

Minimal Invasive Cancer (Microcarcinoma). Clinics in Oncology. Vol 1 no 2. Guest eds E Burghardt and E Holzer. (Pp 332; illustrated; £11.75.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1982.

It has for some time been generally accepted that an invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix has to reach a certain size in terms of volume of growth or depth of invasion before it overcomes the local tissue defences and becomes established as a tumour capable of metastasis. This concept has led to the use of the term microinvasive carcinoma and implicit in the use of this term is the hope that the smallest invasive carcinomas, which have virtually no potential for metastasis, may be treated by less radical procedures than the more advanced tumours. Can the same ideas be applied to cancers of other histological types and at other sites? Although the cervix is probably the organ where most information is available about the earliest stages of invasion, there is still some way to go before precise, treatment-related definition is available and the study of minimally invasive cancers at other sites still in its infancy. A symposium was held in Graz, Austria, in July 1981, at which the question of minimal invasive cancer at various sites was discussed; this book contains papers presented at that meeting. In addition to the cervix, other sites studied were vulva, endometrium, ovary, breast,

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malignant melanoma of skin, oral cavity, larynx, upper aerodigestive tract, lung, thyroid, oesophagus, stomach, colon and rectum, bladder and prostate. As might be expected the most definite ideas are expressed in relation to the cervix. On the other hand minimal cancer of the ovary is a very woolly concept with little to recommend its inclusion. Nevertheless, this book will provide interesting and informative reading to pathologists whose work involves tumours in any of these fields, which surely includes most of us.

MC ANDERSON

Essentials of Clinical Biochemistry. DN Baron. (Pp 292; \$26.95.) Elsevier. 1982.

It is often difficult to review a new edition of a standard text book, especially one as popular as Dennis Baron's Essentials (or, for the English market, Short Text Book) of Chemical Pathology. It is worthwhile re-appraising such a book in view of its stated aims, in the light of current knowledge, and whether it reflects current practice in laboratories.

The overall impression of the book is that Professor Baron has attempted to produce a book in line with current practice in laboratories whilst describing some tests which are now seldom performed. The book is designed to help medical students and doctors and to prepare doctors for the initial higher examinations in chemical pathology. Whilst medical students may have to know much of the material for examination purposes it does not help the SHO or Registrar preparing for the Primary examination to have no reference to the investigation of infertility by, for example, prolactin determinations, but to be given details of tests such as outmoded urinary steroids and Lange tests which are now rarely used. The majority of references for further reading are pre 1977. The best parts of the book are those which give advice to House Officers and medical students on the submission of specimens for analysis and the investigation of possible abnormalities.

In summary a comprehensive book but not altogether fulfilling its stated aims.

T HARGREAVES

The Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease. 5th ed. Ed JB Stanbury, JB Wyngaarden, DS Fredrickson, JL Goldstein and MS Brown. (Pp 2032; £69.95.) McGraw-Hill. 1983.

"Stanbury, Wyngaarden and Fredrickson" is well established as the standard text in its field. The new edition complements its predecessors rather than entirely replacing them. It reflects the considerable recent advances in the subject, especially in genetic aspects of disease, as shown by the presence of two geneticists as additional editors. Other changes include an expanded list of contributors, over half of them being new; innovative introductory chapters on molecular biology and histocompatibility; and the introduction of fourteen new diseases and relegation to summary form of ten old ones. Generally contributions discuss developing aspects such as prenatal diagnosis and genetic heterogeneity. Bibliographies are mostly fairly up to date.

My own selection of contributions worth highlighting includes the reviews of diabetes mellitus, phenylketonuria, familial hyperlipoproteinaemias and hypercholesterolaemia, mucopolysaccharidosis, and steroid sulphatase deficiency. Inevitably some of the most recent advances fail to get included, as for example the development of cDNA probes for the defective gene in Lesch-Nyhan disease¹ and in contrast the clarification of the neurological abnormalities in that disease.²

In conclusion this book continues to be an essential reference volume for pathologists, especially chemical pathologists, geneticists, and clinicians or research workers in metabolic medicine.

M d'A CRAWFORD

¹Jolly *et al.* *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1983;**80**:477-81.

²Watts *et al.* *Q J Med* 1982;**51**(NS):43-78.

Isozymes. Current Topics in Biological and Medical Research. Vol 6. Ed Mario C Rattazzi, John G Scandalios, and Gregory S Whitt. (Pp 297; £44.) Alan R Liss. 1982.

As with earlier volumes of this now well-established series, the range of topics reviewed in the present volume is wide. Therefore the individual articles will be of greater or lesser interest to chemical

pathologists and clinical biochemists, depending on their individual areas of interest. However "The Genetic Basis of Alkaline Phosphatase Isozyme Expression" (T Stigbrand, JL Millan and WH Fishman) is of general interest, and "Isozymes of Phosphofructokinase" (S Vora) will also appeal to a wide readership. "The Significance of Isozyme Structural Differences in Evolution, Physiology and Aging" (RW Gracy) is also of direct clinical interest. Other articles, such as "Gel Electrophoresis and Cryptic Protein Variation" (JA Coyne), "Evolutionary Change of Duplicate Genes" (Wen-Hsiung Li) and "Linkage of Mammalian Isozyme Loci—A Comparative Approach" (James E Womack) will appeal more directly to the molecular geneticist.

The reviews maintain the high standards of previous volumes, and each is supported by an up-to-date and comprehensive list of references.

DW MOSS

Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine. 7th ed. PL Mollison. (Pp 988; £32.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1983.

It is a pleasure to see a 7th Edition of this important text book which has served the needs of haematologists and transfusionists for many years. The new edition has been updated to include recent observations. A pleasing feature is the reference to historical aspects of the subject which stimulates the readers interest. The chapters and layout have been rearranged in a connected sequence and, where appropriate, sections have been expanded. There can be no doubt that this is a very fine text book which should be on the shelves and be continually read and consulted by those wishing a detailed and clear understanding of modern blood transfusion practice. Possession of such a book is a wise and sound investment.

R MITCHELL