each allotted two chapters, one concerning basic clinical and laboratory features as well as immunological and cytogenetic data, and one dealing with treatment. The weakness of this comprehensive approach is that discussion on controversial areas such as modifications of CNS prophylaxis in lymphoblastic leukemia is necessarily restricted; a pity in a review volume. Moreover, by dealing with bone marrow transplantation in a separate chapter the editors have neglected the opportunity to evaluate this as one form of potential therapy, albeit a very intensive one. The most obvious shortcoming in this respect is seen with respect to acute myeloid leukemia, where the relative merits of transplantation and chemotherapy are not discussed in either of the chapters on these subjects.

The first chapter by Jarrett and Onions on retroviruses is clear and timely, and their description of the pathogenesis of retrovirus-induced leukemia makes welcome reading for the non-specialist. It is difficult to find good reviews on the pharmacology of cytotoxic drugs so the chapter by Chabner’s team is especially welcome and marred only by inaccurate reference numbering.

The final chapter on supportive care, while otherwise comprehensive, sadly makes no mention of the emotional and psychological problems of patients with leukemia.

This book certainly represents value for money and will be welcomed by higher examination candidates for whom it will provide a readable, up to date, and well-referenced source of information.

JUDITH M CHESSELLS


Clinopathological correlation is an important but easily neglected field of study for histopathologists, who are all too often confronted by overwhelming masses of surgical histology material requiring immediate diagnosis. A volume that places such correlation as its primary purpose is therefore welcome. This book consists of a series of essays on disparate aspects of lung disease but, alas, suffers from an unevenness in style and content inseparable from multi-author works.

Yet certain sections are of high quality. Thus the account by Dalguen and Oberholzer of correlation between functional and morphological parameters in chronic obstructive lung disease, with 197 references, is probably the most comprehensive review of the subject to date. The United Kingdom is represented by SG Howarth, who has contributed an important, clinical, and full account of pulmonary hypertension in childhood giving welcome emphasis to quantitative aspects of vascular pathology. There is a review of pulmonary blastoma which will prove a good reference source for those who encounter this rare and puzzling tumour. The sections on viral infections, experimental pulmonary fibrosis, and pre-neoplastic lesions of the bronchus provide useful if limited information on these topical subjects. In a book that is part of a “Current Topics in Pathology” series, a chapter on bronchio-alveolar lavage would have been welcome. The standard of production is high and there is a good index, but the price and limited content may well inhibit individual purchasers.

JUDITH M CHESSELLS

Book reviews


This volume is designed specifically for the American practitioner of laboratory medicine and as such is difficult to see that it will appeal to consultants or trainees in individual pathological disciplines in the UK. The 13 chapters are split roughly evenly between immunology, haematology, and chemical pathology and a single microbiological one on antifungal agents. Two are on computing and laboratory management, there is a good review on human B lymphocytes and their pathology, but the chapter on advances on cytochemistry or blood cells is restricted by the lack of colour illustrations and like many of the other articles it is more of an overall review than a recent update, despite the title. In this way the chapters on evaluation of cell-mediated immunity and one called “Platelet Transfusion Therapy” were reviews rather than updates, but the latter in fact contains some excellent information on the detection of platelet antibodies. An interesting article on nickel metabolism is included and reviews on the lysosomal storage diseases, HDL cholesterol, and bile acids are presented. None of the references appear to be later than 1982—a problem difficult to resolve in this kind of publication and their number varies from 1 to 415. At £50-00 a copy it’s probably expensive for the one or two reviews that any individual might be interested in and which they well may find in other topic based review publications but libraries might consider stocking the volume.

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