

Book reviews

ferent immunoglobulin classes in which anti-nuclear antibodies can be found. Nonetheless, this is a relatively valuable book for laboratories who are on the point of starting a more detailed screening procedure for the various types of anti-nuclear antibodies or for clinicians who are puzzled by the complexity of much of the current research literature.

DL SCOTT

Medical Microbiology. Vol 3. Role of the Envelope in the Survival of Bacteria in Infection. Ed CSF Eason, J Jeljaszewicz, MRW Brown, PA Lambert. (Pp 264; £29.50.) Academic Press. 1983.

The editors have invited a number of scientists to contribute reviews summarising the proceedings of a meeting sponsored by the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy at Aston University. The book contains nine well written chapters which are concise yet comprehensive in their scope. There are numerous references in the text and a helpful list of references at the end of each chapter; the book is also well indexed. The chapter titles reflect the growing interest in the way environmental conditions influence the expression of bacterial envelope antigens. Particular attention is paid to recent studies on the effect of antibiotics on adhesion, phagocytosis, and resistance to humoral defence mechanisms. The book also emphasises how an understanding of the envelope antigens expressed during various stages of the pathogenic process can influence the development of new antimicrobial agents and vaccines.

Both medical and science students studying bacterial pathogenicity at undergraduate and postgraduate levels will find this collection of up to date reviews valuable. The extensive reference lists at the end of each chapter are particularly useful as guides for further reading.

The cost precludes the possibility of the average student owning a personal copy of the book. However, the book should join volumes 1 and 2 of the same series in the library of every medical microbiology department.

JH REID

Lung Cancer. Recent Results in Cancer Research. Vol 92. (Pp 132; DM 98; US \$38.50.) Springer. 1984.

This book records the proceedings of a

multidisciplinary symposium on lung cancer held at the Royal College of Radiologists in February 1983. It comprises 11 chapters and that by D Lamb will interest pathologists. The other 10 chapters deal with clinical diagnosis and staging, radiology, treatment (7 chapters) and future prospects. Lamb's chapter is entitled Pathology and Classification. It considers the various ways by which material may be obtained for the pathologist, as well as histopathological classification. The parts of the 1967 and 1981 WHO classifications dealing with epithelial tumours of the lung get major consideration but there are comparisons with the VALG and WPL classifications used in parts of the United States. The emphasis is on the problems met by the pathologists in applying the various classifications to the tumours he meets, and the practising pathologist will find either help or comfort in these pages. (The comfort comes from an appreciation that an expert experiences similar problems to oneself). Any pathologist dealing in tumour diagnosis will find Lamb's chapter well worth reading and the other chapters of interest, particularly that on future trends, typographical errors notwithstanding.

B CORRIN

Malignant Lymphomas. A Pathology Annual Monograph. Ed SC Sommers and PP Rosen. (Pp 333; £42.30.) Prentice-Hall International. 1983.

Malignant lymphomas are in the news. It was the submission of several articles on the subject to the Pathology Annual that led to the publication of this monograph—the first of its kind since the Pathology Annual began in 1966. The six articles here assembled are therefore quite independent of one another and while there is a certain degree of overlap, it is not to be expected that a book of this kind will be a systematic guide to malignant lymphomas, many aspects of which are not touched upon at all.

An introduction to the volume has been written by that wise and experienced haematopathologist, Dr Philip Lieberman, with pertinent critical comments on each of the six papers from the viewpoint of a "working surgical pathologist who sees a large number of haematopoietic cases per

year and not as a champion of a specific classification or laboratory technique". It is Dr Lieberman's detachment that makes his comments particularly valuable, for unfortunately so many others in the field have an axe to grind. This is clearly demonstrated in the first of the six articles which is "an appraisal of the 'Working Formulation' of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas for clinical usage" by BN Nathwani and CD Winberg. This paper contains a detailed analysis of the study sponsored by the National Cancer Institute in the USA—the reasons for the study, its objectives and its results, which led to the consensus classification termed the "Working Formulation", since each of the six pathological classifications which were compared in the study proved clinically useful and none was found to be superior to the others in predicting prognosis. After a factual account of the NCI study, the authors embark on a vigorous defence of the working formulation which came out of it, illustrating the ten categories in the "formulation" with case material of their own. The imperfections of the formulation and indeed of the study itself are glossed over while valid criticisms voiced by several distinguished pathologists in this field are summarily dismissed or side-stepped. Your reviewer, after reading this article, shared the misgivings expressed by Dr Lieberman in his introduction.

The second article is an interesting essay on proliferative disorders of histiocytes by three Japanese authors—S Watanabe, Y Shimamoto, and T Nakajima. Their main thesis is that histiocytic proliferations may involve one or other of two distinct populations of cells—either those of the monocyte-macrophage system of the T-zone histiocytes which include Langerhans' cells as well as interdigitating reticulum cells. In any given instance the origin of the proliferating cells may be determined by a series of discriminating enzyme histochemical and immunohistochemical tests. "Using these markers it was shown that solitary multifocal eosinophilic granuloma, Letterer-Siwe disease, systemic eruptive histiocytoma and most histiocytic medullary reticulosis (HMR) were proliferative disorders of T-zone histiocytes. On the other hand, the intestinal type of malignant histiocytosis was a proliferative disorder of the monocyte-macrophage system, as well as were many xanthomatous lesions of the skin, such as xanthoma disseminatum, solitary reticulo-histiocytoma, multicentric reticulohistiocytosis and xanthoma tuberosum". The only result likely to occur

sion surprise is the inclusion of HMR in the group of T-zone histiocyte disorders and one is perhaps entitled to enquire what criteria the authors used in establishing the diagnosis of HMR—especially as there appear to have been some exceptions to the general rule of a T-zone histiocytic origin. One of the chief problems in investigating proliferative disorders of histiocytes is the rarity of some of these conditions and uncertainty as to how many separate entities exist. The authors freely acknowledge this and repeatedly stress the necessity of studying more cases. Another interesting problem concerns the distinction between certain malignant lymphomas of T-cell origin and primary neoplasms of T-zone histiocytes—a distinction which may not be easy to make.

The third chapter is entitled Symposium on Histiocytic or Large Cell Lymphomas and in this, seven contributors, mostly working in pairs, attempt to answer ten different questions posed by an imaginary chairman. It is difficult to believe that this was a real symposium in which the participants actually met to discuss these topics, since the replies to the questions from pairs of contributors often cover the same ground and there is much tedious repetition. Furthermore, some of the questions are interpreted quite differently by different authors and much confusion arises over the use of the term "histiocytic lymphoma". The four North American participants understand the term to mean any large-cell lymphoma, as implied in the Rappaport classification, while the Japanese and British participants apply the term only in the strict sense of a neoplasm of histiocytic derivation. Imagine what a garment would look like if knitted by four different people, each choosing their own pattern, their own wool, and different sized needles, and some idea can be gained of how this symposium hangs together.

A lengthy essay on plasma cell disorders is contributed by TR Callihan, JM Holbert and CW Berard under the verbose title "Neoplasms of terminal B-cell differentiation—the morphologic basis of functional diversity" which runs to 99 pages and includes 428 references. This valuable and comprehensive review discusses first the development of B and T lymphocytes and their interactions before going on to the immunoglobulins and the occurrence of monoclonal gammopathy. Guidance is given on the differentiation of "benign" gammopathy from that associated with neoplasms. A detailed account of multiple myeloma and solitary plas-

myctoma follows and then sections on Waldenstrom's macroglobulinaemia, the various heavy chain diseases, and finally amyloidosis. The lymphoplasmacytoid immunocytomas of the Kiel classification are here dealt with under "Waldenström's macroglobulinaemia" despite the fact that a majority of such cases are not associated with a detectable paraprotein in the serum, as Lennert has pointed out. It is perhaps significant that not one single mention is made of the work of Lennert and his co-workers in clarifying this group of lymphoid neoplasms.

The fifth and sixth articles in this volume are both much briefer. P Haghghi has written on "Primary Small Intestinal Lymphoma and Immuno-proliferative Small Intestinal Disease: an update". Readers who are not already familiar with the subject may find this paper confusing and even to the initiated it makes difficult reading, partly owing to the wealth of abbreviations in the text. In the discussion of alpha chain disease there is of course some overlap with the previous article, just as there is between the second and third articles in the book on the subject of "true" histiocytic neoplasms (S Watanabe contributes to both chapters).

In the final article, MH Zarrabi and SB Chandor have written on the "relationship of Hodgkin's disease and the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas". The approach is initially historical, outlining the evolution of ideas on this relationship, on the nature of the Reed-Sternberg cell, and the continuing uncertainty surrounding its origins. One of the several quotations in this section is wrongly ascribed to van den Tweel et al. It should have been attributed to Willis (RA Willis, Pathology of Tumours, 1960, 3rd edition, Butterworth p 785). After concluding that our ignorance of the nature of the Reed-Sternberg cell alone justifies the separation of Hodgkin's disease from the "non-Hodgkin's lymphomas", the authors go on to discuss the occasional occurrence of the two disorders in the same patient and the significance of this observation.

Although there is much to criticize in this collection of papers there is also some merit, and the volume can be commended to those wishing to keep abreast of current thinking in the difficult field of malignant lymphomas. The book is beautifully produced and there are admirably few spelling mistakes.

A STANSFIELD

Chemical Pathology and the Sick Child. Edited by Barbara E Clayton and Joan M Round. (Pp 595; £32.50.) Blackwells. 1984.

It is most welcome to have a book which is specifically devoted to the chemical pathology of infants and children. The editors have aimed this book particularly for those working outside major centres who may not have ready access to specialist text books. In fact, the standard of content is high and a copy should be readily available not only in district general hospitals but also all teaching centres.

Contributions are from clinicians and clinical biochemists covering a wide variety of topics but the text is selective rather than comprehensive and inevitably there are omissions.

The chapter on the newborn which includes many useful reference ranges for full term and low birth weight neonates, the concise and informative chapter on acute poisoning, and Martin Barratt's chapter on renal disorders are particularly interesting. I hope when they produce the next edition it will include more reference ranges of biochemical values for children.

The presentation is pleasing and the text easily readable. At £32.50 this book will find its way to the shelves of most Chemical Pathology laboratories, paediatric departments, and medical libraries.

BRENDA M SLAUGHTER

Notices

10th European Symposium on Hormones and Cell Regulation

This symposium will take place at Sain-Odile, Strasbourg, France, from 30 September to 3 October 1985. Abstracts should be submitted for poster presentations.

Information can be obtained from: Dr RJB King, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories, Hormone Biochemistry Department, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX, England.

Computers in Histopathology

A one day meeting on Computers in Histopathology will be held at the Institute of Child Health under the auspices of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation on 3 April 1985. The meeting is part of a course organised for histopathologists in training but this meeting is open generally to all who are interested. No charge will be made other than for refreshments. Full details may be obtained from Dr J Pindegg, Department of Histopathology, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

J Clin Pathol 1985; 38: 360-361. Downloaded from <http://jcp.bmj.com/> on June 28, 2015. Copyright © 1985 by BMJ Publishing Group Ltd.