

## Book reviews

Although the inclusion of a chapter on *Entamoeba histolytica* justifies the use of the more general term "microbial" in the title, it is nevertheless predominantly concerned with bacterial toxins. The book is based on the proceedings of a recent Ciba Foundation Symposium and consists of 13 chapters, an introduction, and chairman's summary, and is well indexed. One third of the text is devoted to discussions, which are one of the strong points of the book. They were interesting, informative, and helpful and were also used as a clever way to cover a number of omissions from the Symposium, such as *Aeromonas hydrophila* and *Campylobacter jejuni*. I feel that the current interest in the toxins of these two organisms merited their inclusion as a chapter, maybe at the expense of the chapter on *Staphylococcus aureus* delta toxin which "is essentially a toxin looking for a disease!" Most chapters were packed with information and well referenced. The only exception was the chapter on clostridial toxins (6 references) where the enterotoxin of *Clostridium perfringens* Type A was a serious omission. Overall, many aspects of toxin/diarrhoea are expertly covered and the book is good value for money.

SP BORRIELLO

**Gastro-Esophageal Cytology.** Monographs in Clinical Cytology. Vol 10. (Pp 267; Sw fr 123;/US \$73-75.) Karger. 1985.

This series of monographs on clinical cytology has maintained its high standard with this volume. Michael Drake has written a full and extremely readable account of the conditions of the oesophagus and stomach for which cytodiagnosis is useful. The 466 half tone figures which are mostly four to a page illustrate the text well. Detailed description of the cytology is accompanied by gross and microscopic histology and some radiological appearances. Among the technical methods for obtaining and preparing specimens a special plea is made for gastric lavage for diagnosis of small or flat early cancers which may not be recognized by the endoscopist. The chapter on early cancer and precancer of the oesophagus and stomach is an interesting review of the subject.

The author's philosophy of the place of cytology in the diagnosis of diseases of the upper gastrointestinal tract is applicable to most diagnostic cytology and should be read by all aspiring cytopathologists.

The number of monographs on clinical cytology is growing quite rapidly now. This

one contends for first place in upper gastrointestinal cytology.

ELIZABETH A HUDSON

**Cell Surface Science in Medicine and Pathology.** EN Wardle. (Pp 607; £65.) MTP Press Limited. 1985.

This excellent book brings together much that is known about the cell membrane and illustrates how its disorders are implicated in very many clinical conditions. There are excellent chapters on the composition of the cell membrane, with a useful summary of techniques used to probe alterations in its biophysical properties. Selected cell enzymes, membrane receptors, including those for complement, are considered. There is considerable emphasis on the surface glycoproteins and glycolipids and their interactions with antibodies, lectins, and bacterial antigens. Prostaglandins, leukotrienes, platelets, neutrophils, and macrophages receive their own chapters. Vascular disorders, including diabetes and hypertension, are well reviewed. Cell surface alterations in carcinogenesis and in malignant and viral transformed cells are discussed, all with direct clinical relevance. Referencing is full with many key 1984 citations.

This book is a splendid achievement by Dr Wardle and demands a place in departmental libraries for pathologists, haematologists, physicians, and most paramedical scientists.

TJ PETERS

**Precancerous Lesions of the Gastrointestinal Tract.** BC Morson, JR Jass, and LH Sobin. (Pp 175; £32.50.) WB Saunders. 1985.

With the increasing use of endoscopic biopsy in the assessment of gastrointestinal disease, pathologists have not only to become familiar with precancerous lesions but should be able to distinguish them from reactive or regenerative states in so far as this is possible. This book gives valuable guidance on both counts. It is essentially an atlas with 149 colour illustrations which for the most part are highly effective and unlike some comparable publications of satisfactory size. There is also a brief yet comprehensive introductory text which is supported by carefully selected references and deftly handles some difficult topics; of these dysplasia continues to be the most troublesome and it is a little surprising to read that while severe gastric dysplasia (the

equivalent in this site of carcinoma in situ) only merits close follow up, intramucosal carcinoma demands surgery. Nonetheless, this book provides excellent and well illustrated advice and will be welcomed by pathologists at all levels of specialisation.

FD LEE

**Sarcoidosis and other Granulomatous Disorders.** Vol 24 in the series Major Problems in Internal Medicine. D Geraint James and W Jones Williams. (Pp 254; £39.50.) WB Saunders. 1985.

The remit of this book is narrower than its title: it is essentially "Sarcoidosis". "Other granulomatous diseases" get brief mention, mainly in relation to differential diagnosis. The authors provide their personal experience of more than 800 patients, presenting a systematic account of the pathological, immunological, and clinical features of sarcoidosis.

Sadly, there is little that is new in this puzzling disease. The advent of fiberoptic bronchoscopy has made an important contribution to diagnosis, but much immunological work has done little to increase our understanding of aetiology or pathogenesis. The authors describe the granuloma as "a battleground between the antigen and the cellular and humoral defences. . .", but the antigen remains no more than a necessary hypothesis.

HM CAMERON

## Notices

**Fourth International Symposium on Morphometry in Morphological Diagnosis: September 1986**

This notice is the first call for papers (15 minutes) or poster demonstrations for the Fourth International Symposium on Morphometry in Morphological Diagnosis to be held in London, from Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 September 1986, at The Royal Society of Medicine's newly opened premises. Although the meeting has been organised internationally and there will be speakers from all over the world, the meeting will be part of the programme of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The meeting will be aimed at the quantitative assessment of morphological appearances at light ultrastructural level in both diagnostic and experimental pathology. Leading investigators will present keynote