

Letters

ported by some experimental work.^{2,3}

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Book reviews

Atlas of Endometrial Histopathology. G Dallenbach-Hellweg and H Poulsen. (Pp 229; D kr 470.00.) Munksgaard. 1985.

The authors set out, according to their Introduction, to provide a book for pathologists and clinicians to help them recognise and classify the histopathology of endometrial disease. Their first objective is well served by the selection and quality of the photomicrographs. These are almost all excellent, with good choice of material, colour balance, and focus. The text of the book for the most part is adequate and is intended to be secondary to the illustrations, but suffers on several points. There are spelling mistakes, the terminology used in some of the descriptive passages is idiosyncratic (for example, moderate adenomatous hyperplasia of endometrium is equated with atypical hyperplasia), and there are solecisms such as undifferentiated adenocarcinoma. Large amounts of space are wasted, with only four lines of text on some pages. Nevertheless, the illustrations in the book might usefully accompany a text book of gynaecological pathology in departmental libraries.

D LOWE

Fluids, Electrolytes, Nutrition. Allan Engquist. (Pp 320; paperback D.kr. 135.00.) Munksgaard. 1985.

Dr Enquist is the Director of a department of critical care medicine in Copenhagen, and in this book he provides a concise guide for the metabolic management of critically ill patients. The text includes short sections on the underlying physiological principles which enable the user to understand the bases of practical procedures. Fluid and electrolyte balance in numerous clinical situations are considered and there are useful practical details on enteral and parenteral feeding. Paediatric as well as adult problems are considered in detail.

Fluid and electrolyte balance is well served on the shelves of booksellers and this book has to compete in a very tough market. Those revising for examinations or those wanting a handy pocket sized electrolyte "prompt" supported by nutritional feeding, however, would be well advised to consider this useful book.

BRENDA SLAVIN

The Essentials of Forensic Medicine, 4th ed. CJ Polson, DJ Gee, and B Knight. (Pp 734; £95.) Pergamon Press. 1985.

It is twelve years since the last edition of this popular text book was published. This new volume benefits enormously from the contributions of Professor Bernard Knight whose writing has transformed Part II of the book dealing with the law relating to the practice of medicine, which is written with authority and style.

The first part of the book dealing with forensic pathology is regrettably very much the same and an opportunity to alter the emphasis on various topics has been missed. For example, there is still far too much on firearm and electrical injuries but no separate chapter relating to road traffic accidents. Some of the material is frankly dated—for example, the chapter on criminal abortion.

The book itself is almost the same number of pages and most of the photographs are identical with only very few additions. The chapter on cruelty to children suffers very much from a lack of photographs to illustrate the text. It is a beautifully produced volume but the price has risen from £12 in 1973 to £95, and some may find it compares less than favourably with the new edition of Taylor's Principles and Practice of Medical Juris-

prudence which covers much of the same ground, and it must be said in some areas, to better effect, for only £32. So regrettably, only a qualified welcome for the new Polson, Gee and Knight.

HRM JOHNSON

Models, Mechanisms and Etiology of Tumour Promotion. Ed M Börzsönyi, NE Day, K Lapis, and H Yamasaki. IARC Scientific Publications no 56. (Pp 532; £30.) Oxford University Press. 1985.

Biological approaches to carcinogenesis are particularly fruitful as long as the molecular mechanisms are not understood. The concept of two stage carcinogenesis, initiation, and promotion remains a valuable source of ideas, even more so in terms of phenomena to be investigated.

This book is the proceedings of a conference in 1983, organised by the IARC, on promotion—that is, the series of at least three steps between electrophilic attack on DNA (initiation) and the appearance of frank tumours. There is much display of recent biochemical knowledge about phorbol esters, protein kinase C and their secondary effects on cells, several accounts of a variety of changes in cells *in vivo* and *in vitro*, an intriguing epidemiological attempt to suggest that the process of promotion is important in man. Like all sets of conference papers it is both worthy and repetitious, but it is also a unique and worthwhile point of entry into an area of pathobiology that is little understood and probably very important.

AD DAYAN

Hemostasis and Thrombosis. Ed EJ Walter Bowie and AA Sharp. (Pp 341; £45.) Butterworths. 1985.

It is a great pleasure to review this book edited by two such well known haematologists. Walter Bowie has generously dedicated the book to the memory of Alan Sharp, who died during its preparation. We will always remember him, however, for his friendship and personal qualities.

In the rapidly growing fields of haemostasis and thrombosis the book readily updates our knowledge. There are excellent introductory chapters on platelets, coagulation, and fibrinolysis by leaders in their individual fields. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on "Hereditary and acquired bleeding disorders" by Rizza and