

Book reviews

Hypertension in Blacks. Epidemiology, Pathophysiology and Treatment. W Dallas Hall, Elijah Saunder, Neil B Shulman. (Pp 263; £44.) Blackwells. 1985.

This book is the first concerted effort by several authors to discuss in some depth the problems associated with hypertension, which are believed to be more common in black populations. It is divided into five major parts—namely, epidemiology, damage to target organs, pathophysiology, treatment, and future research issues. This in itself tells the reader where the editors believe the biggest differences between hypertension in blacks and whites may be found. The various problems in studying the epidemiology from rural to urban areas in different parts of the world are illustrated by the type of study described, and the various confounding factors such as weight, dietary differences, and the social conditions all receive attention. The differences between blacks and whites in respect of coronary artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, electrolyte and fluid volume control, secondary causes of hypertension such as renal artery stenosis and Conn's syndrome, and finally, the generally believed different therapeutic responses all receive equal attention. At the end of my reading I find myself saying this is a very interesting and useful compilation, which leaves much room for new research ideas.

PROFESSOR SIR STANLEY PEART

Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology and its Clinical Applications: Breast and Lung. Philip S Feldman and Jamie L Covell. (Pp 212; \$109.00.) Raven Press. 1985.

This book is principally an atlas of cytological appearances of fine needle aspirates of breast and lung. These are presented as illustrated case reports. It also contains clear and detailed descriptions of the aspiration procedures which the authors recommend cytopathologists to do themselves.

A wide range of breast and lung conditions are illustrated by good quality colour photomicrographs. The predominance of Papanicolaou staining reflects the North American approach and counterbalances the emphasis on Romanovsky staining found in European publications. Numerous x-ray films and mammograms are included. The benign conditions, which account for half of the 36 cases of lung disease described, are of particular interest. They include 12 infections which cytopathologists may encounter in immunosuppressed patients.

This is a generously produced and very readable book and can be recommended to those with a special interest in breast and lung pathology. Case reports, however, are a luxurious form of presentation that is reflected in the price. Most of the information is available in less costly books.

ELIZABETH HUDSON

Handbook of Laboratory Health and Safety Measures. Ed SB Pal. (Pp 391; £59.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1985.

The editor of this book has set out to cover a lot of ground in a field, which, for the most part, has been well worked over in recent years. Of the 22 contributors, 18 are based in Britain, so that the collection of essays lacks a truly international flavour. A more important shortcoming is that the title fails to indicate that the orientation is strongly towards the staff of hospital laboratories and those who are concerned with the clinical applications of ionising and non-ionising radiations.

Four of the 18 chapters are concerned with the general aspects of safety associated with good laboratory design, organisation, and management. Seven chapters cover the basics of electrical, mechanical, chemical, microbiological, and radiation hazards. The remaining chapters deal in a more scholarly manner with rather specialised topics ranging from the handling of laboratory animals to laser safety.

There is a slightly wistful editorial footnote to the effect that the hazards of using microwaves will be considered in the next edition.

I would also like to see a separate chapter on the safe use of compressed gases. Gas cylinders exemplify the principle that accidents are prone to happen when reagents, apparatus, or techniques, which have well established applications in one discipline, become adopted by another.

The book is well produced with few obvious misprints or slips of the pen ("amyl nitrite cyanide antidote"). There is a curious lack of consistency in the documentation of the various chapters. Some have no references at all; others have extensive bibliographies or lists of literature consulted. Many of the references are to governmental reports and the like which are often difficult to retrieve. The index could be more comprehensive; chemical hazards such as cyanide, formaldehyde, picric acid, and xylene are not entered, even though they are mentioned in several sections of the text.

All in all, this is a reference book for medical libraries rather than a bench book for

pathology laboratories.

SS BROWN

Atlas of Male Reproductive Pathology. Current Histopathology Series. Vol 10. ID Ansell. (Pp 83; £57.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1985.

This atlas reflects the experience, interest, and enthusiasm of a histopathologist with extensive experience in diagnostic and teaching aspects of male reproductive pathology in undergraduate and postgraduate hospitals. Genital tract pathology is well represented in a variety of text books, fascicles, WHO publications, and a recent atlas, but Dr Ansell's work distills the topic into one publication from which facts and answers to practical problems can be speedily obtained. This atlas contains 194 Figures, most of which are in colour, and a concise text which is far more than a simple commentary on photomicrographs.

My criticisms are of a minor nature. On occasional pages variability of colour is distracting and in certain Figures pallor diminishes the points to be illustrated. The laterality in the caption for Fig. 13.2 has been reversed. Amyloid of the prostate may have deserved brief mention and "ectopic" or "prolapsed" prostate presenting as a urethral polyp may have been usefully illustrated. I would question the sagacity of the dogma that "the features of the cryptorchid testis up to the time of puberty are almost identical to the correctly placed organ" if the text is to be read by urologists, and I doubt whether oncologists would agree that patients with teratomas containing chorioncarcinoma still have an "appalling" prognosis. Finally, my sympathy is with the infertile man who is offered equality by artificial insemination or regression by instant adoption!

The aims of this publication, defined by its consultant editor as the provision of an up to date bench manual for pathologists, have been achieved. In addition, this atlas will be of value to trainee urologists as the diploma and fellowship in urology become established.

MC PARKINSON

Notices

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