

I can thoroughly recommend this book: it is a little short on conceptual approaches to pathology, possibly does not fully convey the intellectual excitement which can be evoked by ovarian neoplasms, but does, nevertheless, provide an excellent and authoritative guide to the histopathologist who has to deal with ovarian neoplasms.

H FOX

**Thyroid Function Tests in Clinical Practice.** RJ Mardell, TR Gamlen. (Pp 124; soft cover £9.95.) Wright. 1985.

This is a very useful small book at a very reasonable price for everyone who is interested in the investigation or treatment of patients with thyroid disease. The authors cover most current laboratory methods available in hospital service laboratories, and much of the discussion is based on the personal experience of the authors. The effects of drugs on laboratory tests is adequately covered, as well as the effects of drugs of endogenous thyroid hormone binding antibodies which may also produce factitious results. The references are pertinent and the standard of printing and graphical presentation is high. This book will also be of help to candidates for postgraduate examinations.

MG RINSLER

**Clinical Problems in Sexually Transmitted Diseases.** New Perspectives in Clinical Microbiology 11. Ed D Taylor-Robinson. (Pp 337; £55.50.) Martinus Nijhoff. 1985.

The editor of this book is a distinguished microbiologist in sexually transmitted diseases and has assembled an equally distinguished group of clinicians and laboratory workers who provide an up to date clinicomicrobiological approach to their subjects. The expansion of knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases parallels the increase in their incidence. As stated in the preface, any comprehensive textbook will therefore require to be of massive proportions. Instead, this book covers a series of clinical problems including those of the more rapidly growing areas.

A major problem in clinical practice in many parts of the world is persistent or recurrent non-gonococcal urethritis. The need for careful clinical assessment and microbiological investigations of patient and partner is emphasised here; and the important point is made that antimicrobial

treatment is unnecessary for mild microbiological negative relapse. In the chapter on vaginitis and vaginosis the tone seems to dismiss the role of the recoverable anaerobic organisms in anaerobic or bacterial vaginosis. It is rightly pointed out that sexual transmission in this condition and its treatment also remain controversial. One of the most useful reviews is that of cervicitis, providing an up to date summary of current thinking on cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and carcinoma.

In general, the different contributors have written in a remarkably uniform style. The useful chapter on proctitis includes a few more personal views than do the others. The author seems to recommend that physicians dealing with sexually transmitted diseases undertake sigmoidoscopy and biopsy. Although some of the problems are covered, the need for suitable training is not mentioned. Each chapter has a comprehensive list of references.

Some chapters such as that on HTLV III infection will rapidly become out of date, but as the preface suggests any current text on sexually transmitted diseases should include information on this topic. At a price of £55 it will probably not reach the size of readership it deserves, despite its usefulness.

RN THIN

## Notices

### XIV World Congress of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology

*Vistas in Immunopathology 21-26 June 1987  
Washington, DC, United States of America*

Sponsored by the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, this Congress will highlight current world concerns and challenges in areas such as cancer, infectious diseases, and genetics. More than 1000 physicians and scientific investigators are expected to attend the many poster and plenary sessions, seminars, technical exhibits, and other events. The Congress will also include spouse auxiliary tours, social events, and hospitality.

For more information about the XIV World Congress of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology please contact: World Congress Coordinator, College of American Pathologists, 5202 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL 60077-1034, USA, 312/966-5700.

### Current concepts in pulmonary pathology 20-24 October 1986

Postgraduate course at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts  
Director: Eugene J Mark.

Direct inquiries to: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02115. USA. (617) 732-1525

### ACP Symposium

### THE FUTURE OF PATHOLOGISTS IN AN AGE OF COST CONTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

The Association of Clinical Pathologists is organising a two day symposium with the above title to be held at the Barbican Centre London on the afternoon of Thursday 16 and Friday 17 October 1986.

The Thursday session will cover the policies of the DHSS and its impact on the service specialities, the allocation of resources, the management of laboratories, and the need for information technology and performance indicators. The Friday morning session will cover future trends dealing with each discipline in turn—namely, histopathology, clinical chemistry, microbiology, haematology, and forensic pathology. There will also be sessions dealing with the future of private practice and on the effects of training, teaching and research. Dr H Derman will speak on the changing role of the pathologist in America and the programme will probably include a similar lecture dealing with pathology in Europe.

Speakers from the United Kingdom will include Professor ED Acheson, Chief Medical Officer, DHSS; Professor B Clayton, President of the Royal College of Pathologists; Professor R Dyson, University of Keele; Mr B Edwards, Trent Regional General Manager; Dr PM Emerson, Consultant Haematologist; Professor FV Flynn, Consultant Chemical Pathologist; Dr AC Hunt, Consultant Histopathologist; Dr Lommel, World Association of the Societies of Pathology; Dr AR Morley, Consultant Histopathologist; Dr JWG Smith, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service; Mr C Spry, District General Manager, Newcastle Health Authority; Dr EW Walton, Consultant Histopathologist; and Mr G Wasserman, Assistant Under Secretary of State at the Home Office.

Further details may be obtained from: the Association of Clinical Pathologists, 55 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1V 6LR.