

Book reviews

have not. If they could have been updated with 12 more years of experience at the Hammersmith added, the second edition could have been even more useful than the first. The new volume can be recommended as a work of erudition, but should not replace the first edition.

DFG HARRIMAN

Tumors and Pseudotumors of the Serous Membranes. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. 2nd series. (Pp 124; \$10.00.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1985.

This atlas of mesothelial pathology follows the usual format of the fascicles of tumour pathology from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. All of the series are comprehensive atlases with ample supporting information, and this volume is no exception.

The text includes a helpful section on development, anatomy, and function of the serous membranes, as well as a good review of the role of asbestos in the aetiology of mesotheliomas. The illustrations, as usual, are almost all black and white and for the most part correlate well with the text. Perhaps the only criticism of this volume is that some of the lower power photomicrographs are not very sharp. The uses of histochemistry, immunohistochemistry, and electron microscopy are included and are well illustrated, particularly with electron micrographs.

This atlas is a very useful addition to the series, presenting a clear and well organised review of tumours and pseudotumours of the serous membranes and must surely be an essential volume on the shelves of all histopathology laboratories, and its very reasonable price makes it affordable.

NICOLA BARNARD

Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation. Ed AG Stansfield. (Pp 419; £60.) Churchill Livingstone. 1985.

It is a pleasure to read this book edited and largely written by one of Britain's most distinguished haematopathologists. The book begins with a stimulating account of the functional anatomy of lymph nodes and this is followed by chapters on Hodgkin's disease and non-neoplastic lymphadenopathies, which cover the subjects in a straightforward and comprehensive manner. It is, however, the section on the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas that is outstanding. The clear text and beautiful illustrations will be welcomed by all histopathologists who

will find how logical and easy to apply is the Kiel classification, which has been used to such good effect in this book. None of the currently used classifications adequately covers T cell lymphomas, and these are provisionally classified and extremely well described here.

My single reservation, perhaps not surprisingly, is the editor's decision to confine immunohistochemistry to a single, somewhat indigestible chapter. Unlike the editor, I feel that immunohistochemistry is no longer the province of specialised laboratories and I would like to have seen more of this subject integrated into the text. This is one of those rare histopathology text books that fully justifies its price and belongs in the personal library of every histopathologist.

PG ISAACSON

Textbook of Neuropathology. RL Davis, DM Robertson. (Pp 900; £117.) Williams and Wilkins. 1985.

This multiauthor book comprises 17 well illustrated and extensively referenced chapters. Detailed accounts are given of the normal cellular components of the nervous system and their reactions to disease; the choroid plexus, CSF, hydrocephalus, oedema, and the pathophysiology of raised intracranial pressure; congenital and perinatal neuropathology; and metabolic deficiency and cerebrovascular diseases, intoxications, demyelination, infections, system degenerations, trauma, and Alzheimer's disease. Deliberately not included are chapters on tumours and diseases of peripheral nerve and skeletal muscle.

There can be little doubt that this book is the north American counterpart to Europe's latest edition of *Greenfield's Neuropathology*. Inevitably, there are many similarities and yet there are sufficient differences in content, emphasis, and style to make this book well worth reading. Because of the amount of pathological detail provided, its potential usefulness to neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrists, and individual general pathologists is likely to be limited. It is, however, enthusiastically recommended as a reference title for specialised libraries and as a bench book in departments of neuropathology.

DI GRAHAM

The Pathologist and the Environment. Ed DG Scarpelli, JE Craighead, N Kaufman. (Pp 239; £47.) Williams and Wilkins. 1985. International Academy of Pathology Monograph.

The title begs a question, and the text fails to define the term environment, thereby diffusing the reader's expectation of a consistent theme.

Given that the principal concern of the book is with the harmful effects of external agents, the pathologist is anyone using scientific methods to study disease and the agents are anything noxious. Accordingly there is a bland introductory chapter followed by sections of limited scope on iatrogenic drug (sic) toxicity and human liver carcinogenesis and chapters of voluminous style on heavy metal neurotoxicity and markers of cellular atypia. The biochemistry of cell death and genes and cancer are covered in passing. The final chapter illustrates the tortuous shambles when law and science meet in the United States with a brief lawyer's guide to the evidence and the claims there about asbestos and human disease.

Overall the book is more lightweight than its title claims. It will be a valuable guide to more critical accounts of the topics it displays (albeit with some correction for the predominance of north American references), but it does not give the rounded account of the innumerable toxicological problems that still lie in wait for the alert pathologist.

AD DAYAN

Gene Expression during Normal and Malignant Differentiation. Ed LC Andersson, C Gahmberg, P Ekblom. (Pp 257; £26.50.) Academic Press. 1985.

Advances in Cancer Research. Vol 45. Ed G Klein, S Weinhouse. (Pp 324; £48.) Academic Press. 1985.

Two recent books from Academic Press comprise collections of reviews on laboratory cancer research, but are otherwise very different, a disparity that prompts thoughts about who gains from such volumes. The publishers clearly profit, but are other beneficiaries the writers or readers, and, the latter, at what audience are these books aimed?

Gene Expression during Normal and Malignant Differentiation was clearly a chore for the authors but they gained in other ways, for the book records a symposium held in May 1984 sponsored by a philanthropic Finnish foundation. The organisers invited eminent scientists from

deliberately diverse backgrounds, and the book is probably only an echo of the meeting, the real delight of which must have been the discussions outside the formal presentations. None the less we have a structured collection of 18 short contributions that range from descriptive views of morphogenesis and cellular architecture through reductionist investigations of cell biology to the minutiae of molecular genetics. The specialists will find accounts of their own interests cursory and idiosyncratic, but they and a wide range of other readers should gain from the accounts of work outside their own field. I found large portions of the book both stimulating and informative, and its relatively low price places it within the reach of curious individual buyers who wish to enlarge their horizons and would like an introduction to various aspects of developmental biology.

Volume 45 of *Advances in Cancer Research* is another matter entirely. As part of an august and lengthy series it contains reviews of generally high quality, but the main criterion for inclusion seems to be topicality (with very wide terms of reference) or, worse still, amenability of contributing authors. As a consequence, each volume lacks structure, and I cannot imagine the individual reader, no matter how catholic his or her tastes, buying these costly volumes and ploughing through them. None the less they are compulsory for libraries of all cancer research institutes. The authoritative reviews are often comprehensive (only seven in 300 closely printed pages in this volume), and they not only provide a useful service to specialist readers but were also probably salutary tasks for their authors. The topics in this volume mainly address aspects of molecular biology (DNA repair and structure and function of oncogenes) and immunology (virus induced immunosuppression and the elusive antitumour immune response), with one chapter on chemical carcinogens (fungal metabolites). This weighting of subjects roughly reflects current emphases in laboratory research and, on the one hand, I congratulate the editors on maintaining the miscellany and ensuring that each volume has something for nearly everyone. The specialist in me, however, wishes he could be sent for review a volume of similar size that contains a collection of related chapters, which have been carefully edited, so that they provide a stimulating, penetrating, and up to date account of a limited yet important area of cancer biology. Neither book provides this degree of satisfaction.

J WYKE

Notices

Pathology in Africa?

Many retired pathologists have still a great deal to offer, and some would welcome a period working in Africa where the work is rewarding.

Any recently retired histopathologist who would like to work in the Medical School, University of Ghana, Accra, should contact Professor EQ Archampong, Dean, School of Medicine, PO Box 4236, Accra, Ghana.

International Congress on the Biological and Clinical Aspects of Phagocyte Function

Organised by the Italian Society of Haematology, the conference will be held at the University of Pavia, Italy from Sunday September 7 to Wednesday September 10 1986.

Topics will be covered by an international array of speakers and will include: membrane metabolism; leucocyte random locomotion; pharmacological manipulation; genetic control of phagocyte function; the role of phagocytes in inflammation; leucocytes and prostaglandins; membrane chemotactic and phagocyte function; clinical aspects of phagocyte disorders.

Further information can be obtained from: Organising Secretariat: Centro Italiano Congressi C.I.C. s.r.l., Piazza Armando Diaz 6 - 20123 Milano. Tel: 02/866967- 866659, Telx: 334338 CEPSE, or Scientific Secretariat: Giovanni Ricevuti, Istituto di Patologia Speciale Medica 1*, Università di Pavia, 27100 Pavia - Italy. Tel: 0382/390590.

Sarstedt Research Prize 1986

The German Society for Clinical Chemistry is to award the Sarstedt Research Prize every two years, and the first award of DM 50000 will be made in 1986 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth jubilee of Sarstedt, Nuembrecht, West Germany. The prize will be awarded for outstanding work in the field of clinical chemistry, haematology, blood coagulation, and automated analysis related to the development of diagnostic methods in the field of early diagnosis of disease.

Competitors for the 1986 prize should submit papers for consideration, which have been published, or have been accepted for publication during the period June 1 1983 and June 30 1986, to:

Professor H Grieling, Secretary of the Sarstedt Research Prize, Department of Clinical Chemistry and Pathobiochemistry, Technical University (RWTH) Aachen, Pauwelsstrasse, D-5100 Aachen, West Germany.

The closing date for entries is June 30 1986.

Tutorial organised by the British Lymphoma Pathology Group: recent advances in lymphoma pathology

The tutorial will be held at Southampton General Hospital, Thursday to Friday 25-26 September 1986.

Topics will include: gene rearrangement in lymphoma diagnosis; the histogenesis of the Reed-Sternberg and Hodgkin's cell advances in immunohistochemistry of lymphomas; clinicopathological correlation.

Workshop and slide seminars will include reactive and inflammatory conditions including AIDS; Hodgkin's disease (problem cases); extranodal lymphomas; large cell lymphoma.

For further information please contact Professor DH Wright, Department of Pathology, Level E, South Block, Southampton General Hospital, Tremona Road, Southampton SO94XY.

The Bayliss and Starling Society meeting Liverpool, 29-30 September 1986

The programme will include a symposium on mechanisms of regulatory peptide biosynthesis and free communications on regulatory peptides of gut and brain. The meeting will coincide with the University of Liverpool Sherrington lecture to be given by Professor S Numa on the molecular structure and function of ionic channels.

Further details from Professor GJ Dockray, Physiological Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Brownlow Hill, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr David Melcher, Histopathology Department, Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE.