

Mesothelioma. Diagnosis and Management. CF Kittle. (Pp 106; £34.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-8151-5095-4.

This is a good little book which ironically suffers from the preface and first two chapters being sufficiently good to make it almost unnecessary to read the rest. The chapters on imaging and treatment will be of value to anyone reading for examinations but too short for those who have to deal with cases. There is however a good up to date reference list.

The pathology and epidemiology are dealt with very well, I have never read better. It is questionable whether the price of £34 represents good value for the 30 pages involved, especially as the information on diagnostic pathology is readily available in recent journals.

DJ POLLOCK

Intracranial Tumors in Infancy and Childhood. Basic Research, Diagnosis and Treatment. Progress in Experimental Tumor Research. Vol 30. Eds N Kageyama, K Takakura, F Epstein, HJ Hoffman, L Schut. (Pp 374; £135.) Karger. 1987. ISBN 3-8055-4436-7.

This is a disappointing book. The interest in childhood brain tumours is great, as they are the second commonest malignancy after the leukaemia-lymphoma group. They also present a wide histological spectrum and biological behaviour ranging from benign to the highly malignant. Some of them, including medulloblastomas and neuroblastomas, are capable of differentiation and thus could give a clue to their derivation and evolution. Recent developments in molecular biology have shown oncogene expression in some of these neoplasms: neuroblastomas and retinoblastomas have been extensively studied.

It is therefore surprising that this book disappoints the reader's expectation and does not do justice to an exciting field of neuro-oncology. The book is, in fact, a collection of papers delivered at the First International Symposium on Paediatric Neuro-oncology, held in November 1985 in Toba, Japan.

There is a section on basic research and a single chapter on pathology and classification. Under the section heading "General diagnosis and treatment", there is only a single paper on medical imaging. Major groups of neoplasms, medulloblastomas,

astrocytomas, ependymomas, pineal tumours, etc., are then reviewed, but the contributions are uneven and a central concept fails to emerge. Aspects of pathology, diagnosis, prognosis and therapy are briefly and haphazardly covered.

The standard of illustration is high, as is the price of the book. At £135 it is greatly overpriced.

PL LANTOS

Immunopathology of the Skin. 3rd ed. Ed EH Beutner, TP Chorzelski, V Kumar. (Pp 769; £78.) John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-471-84074-2.

This is the third edition of a book which is regarded by many as standard reference text for those who practise diagnostic immunodermatology and run immunofluorescence services for the diagnosis of bullous disease and lupus erythematosus. The book has steadily grown in size with successive editions and we now have a book divided into four main sections. The first is the guide to diagnostic immunofluorescence, the second contains a lot of new information of bullous diseases including information on some of the rarer bullous diseases, the third is devoted exclusively to connective tissue diseases, and the fourth is devoted to a mixed collection of dermatoses with important immunohistological findings. This includes the wart virus immunopathology, lichen planus, keratinocyte cytoplasmic antibodies, immunopathology of graft versus host disease, and other problems.

The bulk of the book is written by the editors who express in the introduction their gratitude to Professor Jablonska. It is well written but at this point in time it is interesting to speculate just how long immunofluorescence rather than immunoperoxidase will remain the diagnostic laboratory technique for bullous disease and lupus erythematosus. At present this is really a historical accident and it will be interesting to see if over the next few years laboratories do not move more to the permanent immunoperoxidase preparations. Similarly, looking at the field of indirect immunofluorescence on serum samples, one wonders how far away we are from a radioimmunoassay.

This book is useful and should be available for bench reference in the laboratory of all those who carry out diagnostic immunofluorescence on dermatological preparations.

RONA M MACKIE

Fetal and Neonatal Pathology. Ed Jean W Keeling. (Pp 590; 587 figs.; £99.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 0-387-16211-9.

This 28 chapter book edited by Jean Keeling provides a very clear and concise cover of the subject but with particular emphasis on common important problems facing a neonatal pathologist. It is a well set out book reflecting the editor's knowledge on the subject. This book becomes available at a most opportune time because neonatal paediatrics is an expanding field, in part due to rapid progression in prenatal diagnosis and more sophisticated treatment of very premature babies.

The first half of the book covers general important subjects with an excellent description of how to perform a perinatal necropsy, with an appendix on normal histology at different stages of development. It discusses problems related to first and second trimester of pregnancy and then continues with the latter half of pregnancy. I feel the first 15 chapters will be of particular help to those not as familiar with the subject and provide direction in tackling problems such as a fetus with a prenatal suspicion of congenital abnormality, a macerated stillbirth or intrapartum asphyxia, just to mention some.

The second half of the book is systematically orientated and covers, in detail, all the major systems with the initial part of each chapter giving a quick description of the development of those particular organs.

I feel this book is an absolute necessity for any department providing a neonatal pathology service and others involved in neonatal paediatrics will also find it a valuable reference.

HELENE C REES

Yearbook of Hematology 1987. Ed JL Spivak. (Pp 372; £34.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-8151-8325-9.

The Year Book series has been produced for a number of years covering a wide range of medical topics. This is the first of a new series dealing with haematology. The aim of the book is to provide scientists and clinicians with a wide ranging survey of the world literature relating to haematological topics. The editor achieves this by selecting multiple abstracts of original articles from medical journals and including expert assessment as to the importance and relevance of each article.

The papers are grouped in chapters which