

Book reviews

processes. It must be said, however, that the information does not always come in a readily digested form. In no sense can this be regarded as a book to which one would turn for casual reference. That is not to say that valuable diagnostic and clinical data are not available, particularly with regard to immune deficiency states, myasthenia gravis, and thymic tumours, only that assimilation requires some concentration. The effort is worthwhile as anyone who wishes to make a serious study of the thymus or to understand the disease processes with which it is afflicted will find this carefully annotated and illustrated account of this enigmatic organ indispensable.

FD LEE

Human Cytogenetics. A Practical Approach. Ed DE Rooney and BH Czepulkowski. (Pp 232; £15.00 soft cover.) IRL Press. 1986.

Human cytogenetics has developed considerably in the past 20 years or so, and there have been a plethora of texts dealing with the more medical aspects of the subject. But very few have been devoted to practical details, and this current volume will therefore be particularly welcomed by laboratory cytogeneticists. There are in all seven chapters which deal with tissue culture methods, lymphocyte culture, chromosome staining and banding techniques, analysis and interpretation of karyotypes, diagnosis of malignancy from chromosome preparations, meiotic studies, and finally some specialist techniques currently used in research such as in situ hybridisation, somatic cell hybridisation, and flow cytometry. Each chapter is illustrated with photomicrographs and simple line drawings, and concludes with a list of references. There is an appendix of suppliers of reagents and equipment and an index.

Inevitably, there is some overlap between some of the contributors—for example, in discussions of the demonstration and clinical importance of the fragile-X. But all the contributors present an essentially practical approach. The chapter on the analysis and interpretation of karyotypes by Jonasson is particularly good, and could be profitably read by all those in any way concerned with managing patients and their families with a chromosome abnormality. This little book can be highly recommended, particularly to those working in the laboratory aspects of human cytogenetics.

AEH EMERY

Atlas of Immunohistology. An American Society of Clinical Pathologists book. Ed RR Tubbs, RE Petras, GN Gephardt. (Pp 200; \$109.00.) Raven Press. 1986. ISBN 0-89189-205-2.

This book sets out "to serve as an interpretive and methodologic source" of immunohistological techniques. It can be purchased alone or, for an extra sum, together with a set of colour transparencies of selected pictures from the book. Although many pictures are of good quality, others are poor and fail to show points described in the legends. Other pictures are repetitious. The text is generally accurate, if a little turgid. Although published in mid 1986, I could only find two references dated after 1984, and much is already out of date: the value of intermediate filament markers, for example, is only superficially discussed. The book has here been read by junior and senior members of both medical and technical staff, and their unanimous view has been that the book is only of limited value. This is an expensive "coffee table" book, and few departments could justify such an unnecessary luxury in these days of relative austerity.

PA HALL

Correction

Figs 2a and 2b were inadvertently transposed on page 152, volume 40 No 2 in the paper, New marker of B lymphocytes, MB2: comparison with other lymphocyte subset markers active in conventionally processed tissue sections, by PA Hall *et al.*

Notices**The Leeds Course in Clinical Nutrition****September 8–11, 1987**

Both participants and exhibitors should apply for further particulars to:

Director of Continuing Education
The University
Leeds, LS2 9JT

Festschrift for

**Professor David AG Galton,
MD, FRCP, OBE**

A one day scientific meeting on acute and chronic leukaemias followed by a dinner in honour of Professor DAG Galton, director of the MRC Leukaemia Unit, on the occasion of his retirement, will take place at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, W12, on Friday, October 9, 1987. People interested in participating should contact Dr D Catovsky, MRC Leukaemia Unit, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Ducane Road, London, W12 0HS. Telephone: 01-740 3237 (direct line).

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.

Haematology in ethnic minorities**Friday 15 May 1987****Hillingdon Hospital, Oxbridge****Programme:**

Recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of thalassaemia by Dr RE Marcus, Hillingdon Hospital; Red cell enzymes by Professor Luzzatto, Royal Postgraduate Medical School; Sickle cell anaemia in the United Kingdom by Dr M Brozovic, Central Middlesex Hospital; Anaemia in children by Dr DP Addy, Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham; An unusual anaemia in an Asian girl by Dr G Robbins, Royal Surrey County Hospital; Anaemia in vegetarians by Dr I Chanarin, Northwick Park Hospital.

Further details from: Dr RP Britt, Department of Haematology, Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3NN.

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