

**Introduction to the Cellular and Molecular Biology of Cancer.** Ed LM Franks, N Teich. (Pp 458; \$15.00 paperback; \$3.00 hardback.) Oxford University Press. 1986. ISBN 0 19 854168 6 paperback; ISBN 0 19 854169 4 hardback.

The concepts and terminology of recent developments in molecular biology are daunting to those not actively involved in this work. It is essential, however, that all pathologists are aware of these developments as they are providing new insights into the behaviour of normal and malignant cells. This book is the ideal solution, being a well edited review of the wide variety of new knowledge which is available in various aspects of cancer research, and provided by contributors, many of international repute, and all having connections with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. The topics covered range from epidemiology of cancer to its treatment; especially to be recommended for intellectual stimulation are the chapters on oncogenes and cancer by Teich, chromosomes and cancer by Sheer, and the role of growth factors in cancer by Waterfield.

In the preface the editors write that they hope that all the chapters are comprehensible. The answer is yes, and this book is to be recommended to those pathologists (hopefully the majority) who continue to derive stimulation from learning and assimilating new ideas.

DA WINFIELD

**Tumours of the Nervous System. An Ultrastructural Atlas.** TH Moss. (Pp 166; 120 figs; £88.00.) Springer. 1986. ISBN 3-540-16858-3.

It can be easily argued that tumours of the nervous system present a more striking variety of histological derivation than those of any other organ. They can arise from neurons, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes and ependymal cells, from endocrine organs associated with the brain (the pituitary and pineal glands), from the retina, from meningeal tissues and supporting elements of cranial and peripheral nerves, from the vascular tree permeating neural tissue, and from lymphoid cells. This list is far from complete and does not include hamartomatous lesions and secondary deposits. Furthermore, tumours of neuroepithelial derivations are often mixed, being composed of more than one cell population and their cells have the propensity, particularly the primitive ones, to differentiate into more mature forms. This

histological diversity of neural tumours and the cellular heterogeneity and pleomorphism which may exist within a single neoplasm may present considerable diagnostic problems.

Electron microscopy has provided considerable help in the diagnosis of brain tumours. Moreover, it has also contributed invaluable information on the origin and development of some of the neural tumours. This ultrastructural atlas is a useful guide in the complexities of the diagnostic problems of the tumours of the nervous system. The author systematically, but not comprehensively, reviews the ultrastructural features of most, but by no means all, neoplasms afflicting the nervous system. Space is allocated according to the wealth of diagnostic ultrastructural properties of various tumour types and not according to their prevalence. A concise and illuminating description with a short reference list for future reading introduces each entity. The electron micrographs which follow are consistently of high quality and mostly of full page size. The atlas will be particularly useful for general histopathologists who may have to deal with neurosurgical biopsies and for trainee neuropathologists who have just been confronted with the diagnostic difficulties of neural neoplasia.

PL LANTOS

**Principles of Toxicokinetic Studies.** Environmental Health Criteria 57. (Pp 166; Sw fr 14.) World Health Organization Geneva. 1986. ISBN 92 4 154257 8.

Some may consider that pharmacokinetics is all to do with arithmetic and others that toxicology is only concerned with chemicals that make you sick. In fact, neither discipline can develop without the other, especially not understanding the mechanisms of toxic reactions. Once the reader has overcome the distaste produced by "toxicokinetic", a neologism sufficiently senile as almost to be acceptable, he will find a clear and careful account of basic pharmacokinetics and its application in toxicology. There are good descriptions of how quantitatively to evaluate data about absorption, disposition, and clearance about multicompartmental and non-linear kinetics, and more briefly, of their application in the assessment of human exposure.

This short monograph can be recommended as an early text to anyone interested in kinetics whether to do with medicines or toxicants.

AD DAYAN

## Notices

### 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.

### Prize: Biochemical analysis 1988

The German Society for Clinical Chemistry awards the prize. Biochemical Analysis, every two years at the conference Biochemische Analytik in Munich. The prize of DM 20000 is donated by Boehringer Mannheim GMBH for outstanding and novel work in the field of biochemical analysis, or biochemical instrumentation, or for important contributions to the advancement in experimental biology, especially relating to clinical biochemistry.

Competitors for the 1988 prize (conference April 19-22, 1988) should submit papers concerning one theme, either published or accepted for publication between October 1 1985 and September 30 1987, before October 15 1987 to: Professor Dr H Feldmann, Secretary of the prize Biochemical Analysis, Institut für Physiologische Chemie der Universität, Goethestraße 33, D-8000 München 2, West Germany.

If the work is multiauthorial please indicate the name(s) of the candidate(s).