

Immunobiology of Cancer and AIDS: Etiology, Diagnosis, and Management. Ed HE Nieburgs, JG Bekesi. (Pp 648; \$130.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1987. ISBN 0-8451-4236-4.

It is well known that if an experiment is not worth doing, it is not worth doing well. If a book is not worth publishing, the same may be said to apply. Some considerable time ago, when HIV was still called HTLV III or LAV, an international symposium on the immunobiology of "cancer and allied immune dysfunctions" was held in Copenhagen. Seventy one selected papers were subsequently gathered into an anthology and published as a supplement to the journal *Cancer Detection and Prevention* [supp 1 1987]. The exact same have now been reproduced verbatim in a hardback book which arrived at this journal office for review in March 1988. Presumably those who want to read its contents will have already done so, and it is not clear why the hardback book has been produced—particularly as much of the section on AIDS is already out of date.

It is also hard to see what particular readership the book is aimed at—tumour immunologists, I suppose. Others will perhaps find occasional articles of interest, but the subjects covered are too varied to summarise briefly, ranging as they do from interleukin 2 in pregnancy to the effect of ginseng on mice with induced lung cancer. Who should buy it? Definitely for wealthy research departments and libraries only.

JS LILLEYMAN

Vascular Tumors. (The American Society of Clinical Pathologists Classic Teaching Collections Soft Tissue Series, 7.) R Lattes, FM Enginger, EH Soule. (Pp 17; \$75.) Raven Press. ISBN 0-89189-228-1.

This is the seventh volume (in a series of nine) of the ASCP Classic Teaching Collection on Soft Tissue Lesions, each of which consists of a brief text and a set of descriptive legends, which correspond to the enclosed 52 transparencies.

Having been disappointed by two previous volumes (reviewed elsewhere), I hoped this volume would offer hope of redemption, particularly since the authors are undoubted leaders in this field. Sadly, this has not been the case. The text is so cursory as to be of help only to the complete novice. There is no description of angiolymphoid hyperplasia/epithelioid haemangioma, and its possible relationship to Kimura's disease has not been discussed. The features of early Kaposi's sarcoma (as typically seen in AIDS) are omitted and both epithelioid and spindle cell haemangio-

endothelioma, the "borderline/intermediate" malignant lesions, are similarly neglected. The over-riding drawback, as in previous volumes, is the poor quality of the histological transparencies which, on the whole, appear to lack haematoxylin totally. This is the publishers' responsibility since they seem to have taken no trouble over colour balance.

I cannot recommend the purchase of either this volume or any of the others that I have seen in the series. Save your money for the second edition of Enginger and Weiss which is imminent!

CDM FLETCHER

Forensic Neuropathology. JE Leestma. (Pp 464; \$203.00.) Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0-88167-338-2.

Forensic pathology and neuropathology have much in common and have both developed considerably over the past 25 years. The author has attempted to write a book devoted to neuropathology from a forensic standpoint and at the same time meet the needs of the neuropathologist with respect to forensic pathology. The book particularly emphasises those areas of neuropathology of greatest importance in forensic medicine.

The first chapter summarises the role of the pathologist in a forensic setting including certification of death, the manner of death, preservation of evidence, the production of a report, and the relationships and responsibilities of the pathologist with the law. This is followed by chapters on specific scientific topics.

In general the book achieves its aim. Much of the neuropathology is relatively superficial in nature and is of little interest to the neuropathologist, but it should be adequate for the forensic pathologist. In some areas this criticism also applies to difficult forensic problems in neuropathology, such as the role of oral contraceptive agents in thromboembolic and haemorrhagic problems within the central nervous system. The main strength of the book lies in its forensic information.

The book is well illustrated but I would like to see some improvement in the style of writing, which is in parts verbose and too simple. Some of the clinical information could profitably be left out leaving the author room to expand the most useful aspect of the book. At £157 this is an expensive book for its size but it contains a great deal of information that will undoubtedly be of use to pathologists involved in forensic work.

WR TIMPERLEY

Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

The Protolebar Structure of the Human Kidney. Its Biologic and Clinical Significance. Gabor Inke. (Pp 802; \$275.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1988. ISBN 0-8451-4234-8.

Cancer Risks. Strategies for Elimination. Ed P Bannasch. (Pp 199; soft cover DM 38.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-17465-6.

Notices

Association of Clinical Pathologists

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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 DH Orrell, Department of Pathology, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Road, Lancaster LA1 4RP.