
This is a multum in parvo. Having outgrown the medical student lectures which spawned the first edition in 1975, it is now a full and practical account, concise yet easily readable. It deals with all aspects from requesting criteria and specimen collection through to the usual biochemical and physiological discussion to interpretation and guidance on further patient study. It is good to have everything together, though it should not supersede the pocket guide which many laboratories produce. Though all medical students and junior housemen may not be expected to purchase a book for every medical specialty, one like it should be in all surgeries and wards for guidance. For post-graduates of all professions in medicine and pathology it is a must, and especially now that junior pathologists are not trained nor examined in all disciplines.

This book, now in its fourth edition, can be safely recommended to all. Perhaps in future editions a fuller reference values table would be useful. Might suggestions be made as to what tests are really useful in the common clinical emergencies? For the laboratory worker further words on the code of practice, health and safety, laboratory design and planning, instrumentation, quality control, staffing, management and costs, etc., would complete it.

JE MIDDLETON


There can be no doubt that the introduction of sophisticated endoscopic techniques have greatly enhanced the diagnosis of biliary and pancreatic disease, particularly the latter. It is already apparent that endoscopic retrograde choledangiopancreatography (ERCP), if there are no obvious contraindications, is by far the most effective method of evaluating the biliary system and represents the only means of examining the pancreatic ducts in vivo. It is equally apparent, however, that in order to realise the full potential of these procedures considerable skill and a great deal of enthusiasm are required, as this book most convincingly demonstrates. Its most impressive feature is the correlation of the endoscopic appearances with conventional radiography and computed tomography. There are also some generously proportioned diagrams. The text also imparts useful information, although the reader has to become adjusted to some of the unfamiliar nuances of idiom and terminology. While histopathological and cytological data are not included, pathologists should be familiar with the endoscopist’s vision of disease and will find a good deal that is both interesting and pleasing to the eye in this well presented publication.

FD LEE


This report of the CIBA Foundation Symposium held in April 1988 brings together an international team of expert contributors who present and discuss aspects of tumour metastasis. Biological topics considered include tissue organisation and cell surface properties, cell adhesion studies, role of fibronectin, oncogene induction of metastases, clonal changes during tumour growth, and molecular genetics. There is also a paper on macrophage therapy, and a review of some clinical aspects of metastasis. The discussions which follow each paper underline how many biological problems remain to be solved. By the time a primary malignant tumour has been diagnosed, metastasis may already have occurred, so prevention of metastasis may be an unattainable goal. The book is produced to the usual high standards and forms a stimulating and up to date volume of interest to all workers in this and related fields.

C FISHER


This slim volume presents material from an IARC symposium on cell differentiation and carcinogenesis, and comprises a mixture of brief reviews and original research reports, most of which are by Japanese workers as the symposium was held at Osaka University. The first section on aberrant differentiation consists only of two reviews, one of which is a lucid presentation on keratinocytes by Yusu, Kilkenny, and Roop. The section on somatic cell genetics includes a useful review by Stanbridge, together with two of the better research presentations in the book. The section on cell-cell interactions is let down by a disappointing contribution on cadherins by Takeichi. The longest section of the book is devoted to oncogenes, including short chapters on ast and ret oncogenes by the groups which discovered them. Many of the reports now published in this book have unfortunately been rendered obsolete by full papers in the international literature.

Despite the quality of the contributing authors, this book does not cover any one subject in sufficient depth to act as a...