

Book reviews

new and interesting facts; for example, bismuth tablets taken when on holiday abroad should protect against the ravages of travellers' diarrhoea.

JD SLEIGH

Guides to Clinical Aspiration Biopsy. Retroperitoneum and Intestine. KC Suen. (Pp 214; £44.75.) Williams & Wilkins. 1988. ISBN 0-8964-0125-1.

The first chapter is an excellent general introduction to fine needle aspiration, discussing the increase and therefore importance of fine needle aspiration with details of technique in fixing and staining; the prerequisites for successful needle aspiration and quality of aspirations. This first section would be very worth while reading for any clinician about to embark on fine needle aspirations. The remaining sections in this chapter are essentially for the pathologist and give helpful advice on cell morphology and cytological patterns. Chapter 2 is a useful chapter on the various imaging and localisation techniques.

Retroperitoneal lesions have been neglected in most text books of cytopathology. With the advent of fine needle aspiration under computed tomographic scan and ultrasound control, it is important that cytologists should know about them and the next four chapters—retroperitoneum, stomach and intestine, kidney and urinary tract, and adrenals—are excellent, describing briefly the embryology and anatomy with first class photographs. Diagrams and tables showing, for example, the differences between non-hodgkin's lymphoma and lymphoid hyperplasia are clearly laid out and will be very helpful both to the student cytopathologist and those with more experience.

The final chapter is on immunostaining and electron microscopy. Both subjects are concisely written with sufficient information to be most useful. There is a paragraph on most of the common markers in use, and also one on the precautions and pitfalls of immunocytochemistry. In several of these chapters the authors draw attention to the team approach. This, of course, is a prerequisite to successful fine needle aspiration and it cannot be emphasised too often or too strongly that there must be close liaison with the clinician.

I can recommend this book not only to all cytopathologists, but all clinicians and radiologists with an interest in fine needle aspirations should be encouraged to read it.

O MARIGOLD CURLING

Dartford's Capital River. Paddle Steamers, Personalities and Smallpox Boats. J Burne. (Pp 129; £15.95.) Barracuda Books Ltd. 1989. ISBN 0-86023-454-1.

This is a fascinating book. Dr Burne has dredged the archives of Dartford's hospitals, polished his finds, and produced this pearl of medical and social history. He tells the story of the hospital ships moored on the Thames, where London's smallpox patients were nursed in isolation. The onshore hospitals are also described.

The test is scholarly and entertaining, a rare combination. Illustrations of Victorian and Edwardian photographs evoke a lost world of matrons and medical superintendents, shipmasters, and hospital stewards. Quotations from their letters and reports give us glimpses of their personalities. What strength of character they had!

Smallpox was endemic in Britain for centuries. Simply nursing the victims at Dartford was an industry in itself. This book is a valuable addition to the history of smallpox; it certainly shows what can be achieved by the study of local records. The eradication of this terrible disease is the great unsung triumph of modern times.

DA STOCKS

Nucleic Acid and Monoclonal Antibody Probes. Applications in Diagnostic Microbiology. Ed B Swaminatha, G Prakash. (Pp 752; \$180.) Marcel Dekker. 1989. ISBN 0-8247-8023-X.

This is a good book, bursting with information. The range of infections covered is wide although a little erudite. For example, there is a mass of information on DNA probes for *Leptospira* sp (unfortunately spelt incorrectly in the chapter title) and relatively little on the use of monoclonal antibodies in streptococcal disease. Some topics, such as the identification of *Brucella* spp, detection of *Treponema pallidum*, and identification of Mycobacteria are not "hot" topics for most laboratories in the UK. Other subjects such as the diagnosis of gonorrhoea, chlamydial infection, and enteric infections thoroughly deserve the space they attract.

The basic techniques are very well explained and will save the reader much anguish with original papers and "mainstream" reviews. There will be, as the book makes clear, a steady penetration of these techniques into microbiology laboratories, but at this time the book is of real value to

reference and research departments. Other laboratories might be well advised to await the second edition.

D PARRATT

Hemophilia in the Child and Adult. 3rd ed. Ed Margaret W Hilgartner, Carl Polchedly. (Pp 383; \$122.50.) Raven Press. 1989. ISBN 0-88167-492-3.

This is a third edition of a multiauthor text from North America. The authors adopt a thoroughly multidisciplinary approach to haemophilia care, with contributions from dentistry, surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, radiology, psychiatry, psychology, nursing, and physiotherapy. Most sections are written in such a way as to be accessible to all, and the book is clearly intended to be used by all members of the health care team.

Some chapters are more successful than others. Excellent sections on dental management, neurological problems, genetics, HIV, haemophilic liver disease, and the psychological aspects of haemophilia care contrast with an extremely disappointing 14page chapter on the musculoskeletal complications of haemophilia. This section does not adequately reflect the importance of haemophilic arthropathy, dismissing the management of advanced arthropathy of the knee in less than a page, for example, and containing only two illustrations.

By comparison, no fewer than four chapters and 75 pages are devoted to counselling and the various psychological problems associated with haemophilia. They describe many familiar behavioural problems and anxieties in patients and their families. The authors of these sections are all psychiatrists, and so it is perhaps not surprising that they suggest that the psychological problems of haemophilia are best resolved by psychiatric referral for counselling and "therapy". Newly identified carriers are automatically referred to a psychiatrist by one author. We are told in another section that "on a typical day at the Hemophilia Center of Central Pennsylvania, members of the psychosocial team [psychiatrists and psychologists] circulate among haemophilic children and adults and their families. In this way patients are helped to feel comfortable with the presence of psychosocial personnel." This central involvement of psychiatrists in haemophilia management will strike many European readers as inappropriate. Although psychiatrists have much to offer the mentally ill, their role in the management of patients whose anxiety is caused by adverse

circumstances is more questionable, and these patients are often better dealt with by a familiar, sympathetic, and well informed member of the "core" team.

Although it is impossible to provide a completely comprehensive account of haemophilia care in a book of this size, most areas are adequately covered, and some chapters very good indeed. It is a valuable source of practical information and every haemophilia centre should have at least one copy.

CRM HAY

The Autopsy—Medical Practice and Public Practice. RB Hill and RE Anderson. (Pp 294; £45.) Butterworths. 1989. ISBN 0-409-90137-7.

This book is a curious blend of history, anecdote, scientific analysis, and polemic, such as could only have been generated by a real enthusiasm for the subject. It documents the necropsy as the catalyst for the development of modern scientific medicine and reviews its continuing value in contemporary medical practice and for society as a whole. It analyses the current decline of the necropsy, despite clear evidence of its usefulness, and concludes on a positive note, with recommendations for its revival.

In the UK, medical audit has suddenly become both fashionable and politically desirable. Its costs are being identified and it may even, in part at least, be seen to justify additional funding. As a result, there is a window of opportunity for the rescue of the necropsy, the 'ultimate audit'. For these who have to 'sell' the necropsy to a potentially sceptical audience, this book provides a rich mine of facts and persuasive arguments. It should be of equal interest and concern to pathologists, bedside clinicians, and medical administrators.

For anyone in medicine who has the slightest interest in the necropsy, this book will make compelling reading. For anyone without the slightest interest, it should be made compulsory.

PG TONER

Surgical Pathology. 2nd ed. Walter F Coulson. (Pp 1824; 1434 illustrations; 109 tables; 2 volume set—£125.) Gower Medical Publishing. 1988. ISBN 0-397-50600-0.

It is 10 years since the first edition of this book, but Professor Coulson's comments, then in the preface, remain as an admirably clear statement of his philosophy and aims for a textbook of surgical pathology. "It is probable that the ability to diagnose 95% of all the material received in a surgical path-

ology department can be acquired in a year or less. The other 5% is learned over the rest of one's professional life. It is my belief that this 95% can be contained in a standard text, from which, with the aid of comprehensive references, the unusual can be pursued". To this end he has assembled colleagues with special interests in the major divisions of the field to produce a book organised on systemic lines, but including occasional topographic chapters such as those relating to the mediastinum and the peritoneum. The "common 95%" of disease entities for each organ system are discussed in the frequently referenced text. The individual topics are generally well covered, particularly so with the chapters on the haematopoietic system, soft tissues, bone, and joint. Some, however, will find the sections on the nervous system, urinary tract, liver, and skin rather short. A particularly effective space saving technique for the more unusual conditions is the use of simple tables, relating, for example, rare tumours of the organ in question directly to references, without the additional thumbnail sketches of these entities found in longer texts such as Ackerman. The references following each chapter certainly are numerous and include many classic papers, some going back many years. Perhaps this is why sometimes the most recent references are not present. I would have preferred to see the topics covered within an individual chapter listed at the beginning of that chapter rather than at the beginning of each volume. The index, however, is good.

This book has to compete with other comprehensive texts such as Ackerman and it does. It is unlikely that many laboratories buy more than one such text and if placed in such a dilemma then a prospective purchaser would do well to browse or brood before making a decision.

R OWEN

Pathology and Pathophysiology of AIDS and HIV-Related Diseases. Ed SJ Harawi, CJ O'Hara. (Pp 512; £75.) Chapman & Hall. 1988. ISBN 0-412-29140-1.

The editors have assembled a team, with 21 others, all eminent practitioners in Boston, New York, and Washington hospitals, medical, and dental schools. The preface sets out their intentions and limitations, and in the course of 19 chapters the authors have collated an immense amount of data covering HIV infection, its basis and implications, throughout the body at all ages. Where appropriate there is ample comment on the use of investigative tools and of information

to be derived from the infection in Africa and in Macaques.

There are numerous illustrations—most of high quality—and little has been lost by avoiding colour and its high cost; chapters are thoroughly researched and references throughout are liberal, with some from 1988 including that year's international conference on AIDS in Stockholm.

The book gives the background to all the various presentations of this infection, and is to be highly commended to pathologists and clinicians regularly seeing such patients as well as researchers: my personal experience particularly directs readers to the superb contribution on the nervous system where HIV is at its very worst. At the end of the work are three appendices giving sound guidance on safety precautions, diagnosis, and special stains; for the uninitiated the latter two can be expanded with benefit.

JN HARCOUT-WEBSTER

Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System. 5th ed. Dorothy S Russell, Lucien J Rubinstein. (Pp 1012; £110.) Edward Arnold. 1989. ISBN 0-7131-4549-0.

This is the fifth edition of a book that has been the standard reference work on the pathology of tumours of the nervous system since 1959. The new edition incorporates many of the scientific advances that have been made in neuro-oncology. The introductory chapter on pathogenesis has been considerably expanded to include current concepts on oncogenes, growth factors and their receptors, tumour markers, and some immunological aspects of human gliomas. A separate chapter is included on experimental neuro-oncology. A great deal of the book has been rewritten and updated but much of Dorothy Russell's original descriptive writing on cerebral tumours and their effects has been retained. The order of the systematic descriptions has been changed, tumours of central neuroepithelial origin being dealt with first, with two chapters dealing with tumours of peripheral neuroblasts and ganglion cells, and paraganglions at the end. There is a separate account of the effects of radio- and chemotherapy on intracranial and intraspinal tumours and on the adjacent brain and spinal cord. In addition to the considerably extended text, there are many more figures, and some traditional illustrations have been renewed. There is particular emphasis on rare entities where there is the greatest need for guidance.

In parts the book fails to analyse all of the evidence on nomenclature. For instance, there is no reference to the histochemical

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