

Book reviews

of tumour markers in diagnosis. There is a good comprehensive index.

Overall, this book's principal use is as a source of background information, but it should also be of help to the surgical pathologist when faced with a diagnostic problem.

DC BROWN

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Pathology. Haines and Taylor. Ed. H Fox. Vols. 1 & 2. 3rd ed. (Pp 1331; £195.) Churchill Livingstone. 1987. ISBN 0-443-02405-7.

In revising this highly respected textbook the editor has purposely given full rein to the many distinguished contributors in developing their assigned topics. The outcome of this policy is a meticulously annotated and broadly based survey of obstetric and gynaecological pathology which would be hard to emulate. Apart from a comprehensive analysis of what might be regarded as the conventional aspects of the specialty there are well documented and informative sections on embryology, iatrogenic disease, placental pathology, and the pathological aspects of pregnancy. There is also a useful introduction to perinatal pathology. As one might expect, the quality of writing and illustrations shows some variability but is generally of a high order. The editorial policy, however, has some minor drawbacks. Inevitably there is some duplication, and in a rapidly developing field the somewhat over cautious view of immunohistochemistry is understandable; but there are quite numerous spelling errors and the occasional photomicrograph is transposed.

None the less no pathologist aspiring to a special interest in gynaecological pathology, and no major laboratory which has any pretence to providing a proper and updated service to clinicians, can afford to be without a reference book of this quality.

FD LEE

Pathology of the Head and Neck. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol. 10. Ed. DR Gnepp. (Pp 680; £70.00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-08495-5.

This is a selective review of recent advances in the pathology of the head and neck. At its

best, in the chapters on salivary lesions and thyroid disease new and controversial entities are authoritatively covered with good quality illustrations and current references. There is a rich diet of facts in the chapters on epidemiology and environmental pathology. Electron microscopy is given a refreshing problem orientated approach and the chapter on immunohistopathology gives useful differential diagnostic advice. The difficult topic of extranodal lymphoma is reviewed with some success but is confounded by an account of "midline malignant reticulosis" in a subsequent chapter. Other chapters are less successful. An account of fine needle aspiration cytology tries to be too comprehensive, being neither a bench book nor a bench mark. Overall, this text is well produced. It should be read by those who have an interest in head and neck disease and deserves a place in the library of any teaching centre.

AJ NORTON

Textbook of Uncommon Cancer. Ed. CJ Willis, JC Krikorian, MR Green, D Raghavan. (Pp 1064; £110.) John Wiley. 1988. ISBN 0-4719-0968-8.

The four editors of this remarkable new book have "set out to collect together comprehensive and critical reviews on many rare tumours". Over 90 contributors have supplied 54 sections, each discussing pathology, clinical features, investigations, and management. Full bibliographies are included. The result is a monumental piece of practical scholarship. The size and scope of the text must defeat any detailed appraisal by one reviewer; but from the point of view of the histopathologist I found it of outstanding value both as a book to dip into and to use for specific problems encountered in the diagnostic service of a cancer hospital. It is probably invidious to pick out individual sections but I particularly enjoyed those dealing with mediastinal, ano-rectal and CNS tumours, and the chapters discussing malignant schwannomas, peripheral neuroepitheliomas, and Paget's disease of the breast. The editors themselves note that uncommon tumours of the lymphohaematopoietic system and some paediatric cancers have been omitted, and these should certainly be included in the next edition. Of course one can find odd points to criticise; a few of the pictures are smeary, some lack magnifications, and there are assorted typographical errors, but the overriding

impression is that this book is of major importance and an outstanding addition to the current literature on cancer.

RL CARTER

Quality Control and Assurance in Clinical Laboratories: Three Years On. Ed. AD Farr. (Pp 220; soft cover £8.) Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, 12 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0AU. 1988. ISBN 0-9506242-2-5.

There is no doubt that to have the proceedings of a meeting which took place in September 1987 ready for publication in the following April is a considerable achievement. Moreover, by selecting the papers the editor has been able to create a sense of continuity and organisation which go some way to make this feel more like a book than a simple record. Of course the sometimes rhetorical approach reflects the fact that these were all presentations directed at a live MLSO audience. Nevertheless, there is a heartening measure of sound common sense and seriousness of purpose evident here. Quality control and assurance are one of the means by which the laboratory itself is directed and controlled and anyone interested in exercising this would do well to take the matter seriously.

IAJ CAVILL

Modern Trends in Human Leukemia VII. New Results in Clinical and Biological Research including Pediatric Oncology, Haematology and Blood Transfusion. Vol. 31. Eds. R Neth, RC Gallo, MF Greaves, H Kabisch. (Pp 526; soft cover DM 248.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-17754-X.

This volume contains all the material presented at the Seventh Wilsede Meeting which took place in June 1986. It is a collection of over 100 short papers from a wide variety of groups working predominantly in West Europe and America. They are collected under the headings of leukaemia diagnosis and therapy, cell biology, immunology, and virology. As all the papers present recent research of the numerous groups, many overlap, and this volume must be considered very much a reference work to be dipped into to obtain material which was highly topical in 1986, and which two years later can be better placed in perspective. There are also included the excellent review lectures from the meeting from zur Hassen on tumour