

### Book reviews

where the reviewer would never dream of applying cytology!

Where the author's experience is lacking, in addition to having co-authors, Professor Kline refers to the standard works, together with more recent papers (usually American, an index of the great interest taken in this topic in the USA over the past few years, and the fact that this book is aimed at the American market.) The illustrations are of high quality with a most pleasing correlation of histology and cytology. The few colour plates add little.

This book confines itself to Papanicolou's stain, rather than the use of Giesma, the more popular stain in Europe. The limitation of this is not severe for most sites, with the exception of lymphomas.

The book is very helpful for most sites, particularly the breast and prostate, and for its encouragement to radiologists to aspirate what they manage to show with their imaging techniques. It should find a place in all laboratories providing a fine needle aspiration service.

JV LEVER

**Stroke and Microcirculation.** Ed J Cervo-Navarro, R Ferszt. (Pp 587; \$146.50.) Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0-88167-313-7

This book brings together experimental approaches and data from a group of worldwide research centres concerned with investigation of brain microcirculation and problems of cerebral circulatory failure. Both the editors and many of the contributors are well known. There are 85 short chapters distributed among 6 main sections which deal with various aspects of research into ischaemia, oedema, hydrocephalus, intracranial pressure, subarachnoid haemorrhage, and diffuse cerebrovascular disease. Most of the chapters are multiauthor and include a brief introduction to the problem followed by experimental methods, results, and conclusions. In general, the presentation, illustrations, and reference lists are good. As it represents a compendium of research data in a specialist subject, however, this book will have a limited appeal. It will probably be of most use to neuroscientists and clinical research workers specifically concerned with cerebral circulation.

There are a handful of chapters, particularly those dealing with aspects of the blood-brain barrier, which are of neuropathological interest, but there is little to recommend here for the general pathologist.

SUSAN E DANIEL

**Atlas of Brain Tumors. Light- and Electron-Microscopic Features.** K Tabuchi, A Nishimoto. (Pp 247; 258 figs.; DM 320.) Springer. 1988. ISBN 30540-70024-2

This is a well produced book of the high quality and high price expected of Springer publications. It consists of photographs of tumours of the CNS and uses the WHO classification of 1979. Although this classification has not been entirely acceptable to many neuropathologists and is to be modified, it is nevertheless useful and familiar to many. The plan throughout the book is that each tumour type is illustrated first by light microscopic appearances, in colour, mostly haematoxylin-eosin, and a variety of immunoperoxidase stains, followed by a selection of electron micrographs. Both light and electron microscopic illustrations are of outstandingly high quality. Legends are brief but helpful. The various neuro-ectodermal tumours are dealt with first, followed by tumours of the pineal, nerve sheath (only acoustic nerve tumours), pituitary, meninges, base of skull, and one or two other non-neural tumours.

This is not a book that deals with diagnostic problems and there are no cases illustrated that would give rise to disagreement in diagnosis. There are some gaps, such as paraganglioma of the skull base, histiocytic lymphoma, malignant fibrous histiocytoma, to name a few, in which electron microscopic adds considerably to diagnostic accuracy. There is no illustration of proliferative tumour vessels or of the "sarcomatous" elements of glial tumours. None of the spinal cord lesions, either intrinsic or extrinsic, which can cause diagnostic problems is included; yet 16 pages are devoted to oligodendroglioma and 25 pages to pituitary tumours.

One suspects that atlases, particularly those that are largely composed of electron micrographs, are selections of the best pictures from personal collections, sometimes chosen because of their pictorial aesthetic quality (such as cells captured during mitosis), rarely comprehensive, and rarely answering important biological questions. This book is more than that and sets a very high standard against which electron microscopists can match their own work.

LW DUCHEN

**Clinical Aspects of Interferons.** Ed. M Revell. (£62.25). Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. 1988. ISBN 0-8983-8371-4.

Interferons have gained a unique status as

molecules which possess antiviral, anti-proliferative, and immunodulatory effects. Their biological action has been studied in depth in many experimental and clinical situations, and it is therefore important to understand the limitations of their use and their potential application in various treatment modalities. The above publication attempts to provide a "state of the art" view of interferon treatment in infectious and malignant disease and includes several worthwhile contributions from authors who possess an international reputation in their respective areas of study. It is perhaps one of the few publications that provides a comprehensive series of articles on the effect of interferons in infectious disease, and includes, for example, recent results from trials in respiratory illness, herpetic and human papillomavirus infections, poliomyelitis, Kaposi's sarcoma and AIDS, subacute sclerosing pan-encephalitis, multiple sclerosis and parasitic infections. In some of these diseases, for example, poliomyelitis and HPV infection, type-I interferon may well be beneficial, while in parasitic infections IFN- $\gamma$  stimulation for macrophage cytotoxic activity seems to hold some promise for the future. It is apparent that the underlying biological mechanisms of action of interferon in many instances is not known.

The articles presented on the effect of interferon in infectious disease, coupled with those on cancer treatment, provide a valuable reference for recent work. Of value also are articles relating to the toxic effects and pharmacokinetics of interferon treatment, and the systems available for assaying interferon and interferon inducers.

The strength of the book lies in its detailed appraisal of the clinical applications of interferons, and in particular, the potential use of combination treatment using interferons with other cytokines or cytotoxic drugs. This approach is discussed in some detail, and "points the way" for the future of interferons.

RC REES

**Intraoperative Cytology. An Adjunct to Frozen Sections.** JA Wilkerson. (Pp 92; £51.75.) Williams & Wilkins. 1988. ISBN 4-260-14131-7.

This is an interesting monograph in which persuasive evidence is presented to promote the reintroduction of intraoperative cytology as an aid to rapid diagnosis. With the