

Book reviews

Microwave Cookbook of Pathology. The Art of Microscopic Visualization. Mathilde E Boon, LP Kok. (Pp 224; 64 colour plates; Dfl. 105.00.) Coulomb Press. 1987.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that microwave technology can make an important contribution to the effectiveness and efficiency of current technical practices in histopathology laboratories. The authors of this interesting book are pioneers in this field and their enthusiasm is undeniably compelling. While specialised knowledge is required to appreciate the information concerning the physics which govern the behaviour of microwaves, few would have difficulty in appreciating the potential of microwaves to accelerate fixation and staining without in any way reducing the quality of the final product. Indeed, in many instances, and in frozen sections in particular, the quality can be greatly improved. Of course only time will tell if the many remarkable claims made by the authors can be substantiated, and there are problems to be overcome, notably with regard to temperature control; but it is beyond question that laboratories should be looking closely at this interesting development and this book will certainly convince them of the need to do so.

FD LEE

Colour Atlas of Anatomical Pathology. A Cooke, B Stewart. (Pp 262; soft cover £19.95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-03596-2.

This colour atlas will not make the suburban coffee table. It will, however, be welcome in the armchair and sometimes in the laboratory. It is jointly produced by a pathologist and a professional medical photographer. Thus the pictures are well chosen and of almost uniformly high standard. The use of modern light or royal blue backgrounds enhances the visual effect better than the "complementary" green which used to be fashionable. A wide range of conditions is included.

Quite what the function of macroscopic colour atlases is, remains uncertain to me, but the examination candidate to whom I lent my review copy disappeared fast enough with it and still has the book. Maybe they are an aid to revision. Certainly it's easier to take an atlas with you than carrying around a lot of specimen pots. If copyright didn't exist

this particular one could help an awful lot of pathology lecturers in the preparation of transparencies. Anyway, the book is a good one of its genre, and in paper back is not too expensive.

JD DAVIES

Pathologic Diagnosis of Fungal Infections. FW Chandler, JC Watts. (Pp 320; \$156.50.) Raven Press. 1988. ISBN 0-89189-251-6.

This atlas of fungal infections produced under the imprimatur of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists is a delight to have. There is a well chosen selection of gross and microscopic preparations as well as some representative electron micrography. The excellent photographs are balanced by a text which takes an analytical approach to diagnosis rather than one based on taxonomy. An initial chapter provides rules and framework for the detection and identification of fungi in histologic sections. The diseases illustrated are grouped according to their morphological similarities. There is sound teaching on the special techniques of use in this field. Few of us have much current experience in the field and most clinical pathologists will find it reassuring to have the book in their library. It is relatively expensive but this only reflects the quality of production. The book is a credit to the authors and to the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

G SLAVIN

Pathology of Infertility. Clinical Correlations in the Male and Female. Ed B Gondos, DH Riddick. (Pp 388; 2 colour plates; 354 figs; DM 189.) Georg Thieme. 1987. ISBN 3-13-677001-3.

Infertility is a growth industry at the moment. The numbers of biopsy specimens and blood samples taken to investigate and treat infertility in both sexes is increasing, and the publication of a book on the pathology of infertility, rather than simply on its clinical and physiological aspects, is timely. This book presents the developmental, hormonal, immunological, and morbid anatomical causes of infertility in both sexes in a clear and easily readable way. Much of the information in the book is available in existing gynaecological and general pathology text books, but the contributors have updated it and the references and illustra-

tions are good. As a comprehensive review of the pathology of infertility this book can be highly recommended.

D LOWE

Neuromuscular Diseases. A Practical Approach to Diagnosis and Management. 2nd ed. M Swash, MS Schwartz. (Pp 456; 202 figures; £99.) Springer. 1988. ISBN 3-540-19505-X.

Neuromuscular diseases are common in clinical practice and their proper investigation must be coordinated and interpreted in relation to the clinical, neurophysiological, and pathological findings. The purpose of the first volume of this book was to describe and correlate these various parameters at various stages in the evolution of the diseases. In the seven years since the first edition of the book there have been many important developments in our understanding of neuromuscular diseases. The new edition includes a considerable amount of new clinical and scientific data and it includes several new chapters. Illustrations have been extensively revised and improved and there are many new references. Aspects that have been particularly expanded include the genetical aspects of neuromuscular diseases, quantitative electromyographic techniques, cardiomyopathies, plexus and root lesions, and the metabolic myopathies and neuropathies.

Both of the authors have a particular interest in neuromuscular disorders and the content of the book very much reflects their personal and very considerable experience. The book is clearly written and its personalised style creates enjoyable reading. It achieves its aim in presenting an overall picture of neuromuscular disorders, and the second edition is a considerable improvement on the first. I recommend this book to all with an interest in neuromuscular diseases and those that have already bought the first edition would not be wasting money by purchasing the second. If the authors ever decide to produce a third edition I recommend that they try and include some colour photographs in the pathology sections.

WR TIMPERLEY

Clinical Pathology in the Elderly. A Text-book of Laboratory Interpretations. H Rochman. (Pp 222; £40.50.) S Karger. 1988. ISBN 3-8055-4694-7.

Twenty years ago a text book on the inter-