

Book reviews

oxalate is imperative to detect mild forms of the disease but quality assessment schemes indicate that the quality of results from many laboratories does not meet clinical need. Detailed recommendations are made for improving assay techniques, and the importance of measuring urinary glycolate is stressed if the division of hyperoxaluria into metabolic and non-metabolic origin is to be made.

The primary and secondary hyperoxalurias including the enteric type are discussed in detail as is the new syndrome of mild metabolic hyperoxaluria (MMH).

This well produced book is highly recommended to all those involved in the investigation of urinary lithiasis, not only the special centres but particularly in the district general hospital where it should stimulate a re-appraisal of assay methods essential to correct diagnosis and management of an important if uncommon disease.

AC AMES

Tumors of the Upper Respiratory Tract and Ear. VJ Hyams; JG Batsakis, L Michaels. (Pp 343; \$20.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1988. ISSN 0160-6344.

This, the second series fascicle, appears under completely new authorship. Like its predecessor there is extensive and detailed coverage of neoplastic and non-neoplastic tumours of the ear, nose, and throat. The illustrations are of high quality and, combined with the lucid text, provide an invaluable aid to the surgical pathologist. For those with a detailed interest in ENT pathology, some of the concepts are already a little dated. The text is at times very dogmatic and the references appended are highly selective. It fails to provide a diagnostically usable account of middle necrotising lesions, and the grading of olfactory neuroblastomas is contentious. Curiously, neuroendocrine carcinomas of the larynx are accepted by the authors, but similar lesions in the nose are dismissed. These are relatively minor points, however, in what is otherwise a valuable addition to the reporting room library.

AJ NORTON

Actions and Decisions: Concise Consultations for the Clinical Pathologist. RW Christie. (Pp 176; \$48.) Raven Press. 1988. ISBN 0-89189-256-7.

This book and its accompanying software is

written for the clinical and general pathologist. It is orientated to everyday clinical problems that deserve a consultative interpretation. It is not orientated to the interpretation of rarely used or esoteric tests. Each individual clinical consultation takes as its starting point an abnormal laboratory finding (for example, leucopaenia, raised bilirubin, or positive blood culture) and thereafter places the abnormal finding in terms of a reference range. Actions to be taken are suggested with an identification of the possible causes of the abnormality. The consequences of non-intervention, the effects of drug interference, suggestions for follow up, and sources for further reading are all covered. Among the useful appendices is a microcomputer guide for those who wish to use the available consultations transposed into floppy discs.

Although a portion of the book is directed to the systems of reimbursement in the USA, it will prove invaluable to United Kingdom pathologists, more particularly to those pathologists in training who will need such a ready source of information, not only in their future careers, but also to pass their necessary postgraduate examinations.

GW PENNINGTON

The Malformed Fetus and Stillbirth. A Diagnostic Approach. RM Winters, SAS Knowles, FR Bieber, M Baraitser. (Pp 317; £75.) John Wiley. 1988. ISBN 0-471-90946-7.

Compiled by two pathologists and two clinical geneticists, the book combines fetal/perinatal medicine with dysmorphology to produce a schematic and practical approach aimed at facilitating syndrome diagnosis. It is divided into four sections. The first deals with causes and prevalence of the malformed fetus and stillbirth; the second is a useful outline of practical procedure. Specific abnormalities and useful definitions are dealt with in the third section. The fourth is a directory of non-chromosomal multiple anomaly syndromes which includes a short summary, mode of inheritance, and selected references. This is followed by a valuable appendix of normal data.

I found the nomenclature relating to anterior abdominal wall defects a little confusing at times. Brachman de Lange syndrome and Cornelia de Lange syndrome are used interchangeably; only the former is indexed. Cardiac malformation is not listed among defects associated with exomphalos. The fourth ventricle in the Arnold-Chiari II is illustrated as large; this is atypical.

These are, however, minor irritations compared with the high overall standard of the work. It is well produced and simply written and contains a profusion of high quality photographs at times verging on the format of an atlas. The large number of tables listing syndromes set around specific abnormalities is a central feature. This work will be a valuable addition to book shelves of the perinatal pathologist and clinical geneticist; no doubt paediatricians and obstetricians will also benefit enormously from the breadth of information.

S VARIEND

Atlas of Human Parasitology. 2nd ed. LR Ash, TC Orihel. (Pp 212; \$109.00.) Raven Press. 1988. ISBN 0-89189-179-X.

Parasitology is a difficult subject both for medical students and qualified doctors. The clinical rationale of patient management is based on the visual identification of the correct parasite. This means that atlases such as this one by Ash and Orihel are vital. This particular atlas is excellent in that it is clearly presented with emphasis on the most important pathogens. The temptation to produce a longer book covering much rarer pathogens has been wisely resisted. The illustrations are clear and well labelled. There is unfortunately no guide as to how these conditions should be treated. Each pathogen is dealt with under the headings of classification, disease, geographic distribution, location in the host, morphology, life cycle, and diagnosis. These headings are then illustrated on the adjoining page. I would recommend this book to those people interested in developing a basic understanding of human parasitology.

J BURNIE

Bone Tumours. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol II. Ed K Krishnan Unni. (Pp 250; £45.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-08553-6.

This volume, the eleventh in the series *Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology*, brings together 11 chapters written by a distinguished panel of authors. Not aimed exclusively at pathologists, it contains articles on bone tumour imaging and surgical management of and chemotherapy for osteosarcoma. Of particular interest to the