

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

histopathologist are excellent articles on specimen management after osteosarcoma chemotherapy by Raymond and Ayala, and round cell tumours of bone by Triche and Cavazzana. A review of the preliminary role of flow cytometry is given by Mankin and his colleagues, and other chapters include grading and staging of bone tumours, and the pathology of osteosarcoma and fibrohistiocytic tumours.

It is an excellent book and will be warmly welcomed by all those with an interest in the management of bone tumours. While not a histopathologist's bench manual, it should also be of interest to general pathologists and be a useful addition to a departmental library.

R REID

Histopathology of the Endometrium. 4th revised and enlarged ed. G Dallenbach-Hellweg. (Pp 416; DM 220.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-18156-3.

I read the fourth edition of this well known monograph with my mind unsullied by having read any of the other three. I have to report that there are major problems with this book. The recent bibliography appears to have been selected in a highly idiosyncratic manner reflecting the inherent prejudices of the author. The views of Professor Dallenbach-Hellweg on stromal granulocytes are outdated and in many respects almost certainly wrong. The implication that the Arias-Stella phenomenon is indicative of fetal death and the criteria for invasive mole are misleading. The use of the term adenomatous hyperplasia is anachronistic and there is an unconvincing attempt to equate its use with more realistic modern terminology. The most amazing deficiency, however, is the complete failure to acknowledge the existence of endovascular trophoblast and the physiological changes that occur in uteroplacental arteries during pregnancy.

There are some redeeming features; the descriptions of endometrial morphology associated with deficient ovarian function and luteal phase insufficiency are still arguably the best available.

Postgraduate examination candidates should be warned lest they repeat some of these unsubstantiated opinions at their peril.

M WELLS

Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

Ankle Arthroscopy. Pathology and Surgical Techniques. JF Guhl. (Pp 162; £67-45.) John Wiley. 1988. ISBN 0-943432-62-6.
Cancer Incidence in Five Continents. Vol 1. Ed C Muir, J Waterhouse, T Mack, J Power, S Whelan. (Pp 970; £50.) Oxford University Press for IARC. 1988. ISBN 92-832-1188-X.

Notices

Gastrointestinal Pathology

Tuesday 11 April 1989

Institute of Pathology, University of Leeds

This year's course covers the recent changes which have taken place in gastrointestinal pathology. The speakers, who are experienced gastrointestinal pathologists, have played no small part in unravelling the facets of the topics on which they are lecturing. The Slide Seminar will cover the entire field of gastrointestinal pathology.

Topics:

Oesophageal pathology
 Gastritis: an update
 Crohn's and small bowel ulceration
 Infective colitis, AIDS, and all that
 Colorectal neoplasia
 Dysplasia in the GI tract

Speakers:

JM Sloan, Belfast
 JI Wyatt, Leeds
 J Piris, Edinburgh
 H Gilmour, Edinburgh
 P Quirke, Leeds
 MF Dixon, Leeds

Course fee: £40 (inclusive of refreshments and lunch).

Course limited to 25 registrants.

Apply to: Dr MF Dixon, Department of Pathology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

External Quality Assessment in Histopathology and Cytopathology

External Quality Assessment is of increasing importance in histopathology and cytology. With the advent of the cytology proficiency testing scheme and the need to control quality of the newly implemented breast cancer screening, the Royal College of Pathologists and the Association of Clinical Pathologists are presenting a special one day symposium at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1, on Monday April 24, 1989. Fee £40.00 including buffet lunch.

Further details from: Professor G Slavin, Department of Histopathology, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1.

Association of Clinical Pathologists

Junior Membership

Junior Membership of the Association of Clinical Pathologists is available to trainees in all branches of pathology who have practised pathology for less than four years. The annual subscription is £18 which may be claimed against tax.

All Junior Members receive monthly copies of the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. Other benefits include a regular Junior Members newsletter, the ACP newsletter, and all the documents regularly sent to full members of the Association. These include the twice yearly summary of pathology courses included in the ACP Postgraduate Education Programme.

For Junior Membership apply to: Dr WR Timperley, Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, 57 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LR.

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr DH Orrell, Department of Pathology, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Road, Lancaster LA1 4RP.

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