TORCH Screening Reassessed. The laboratory investigation of congenital, perinatal and neonatal infection. (Pp 68; £6.50.) Cash with order from the Treasurer to the Board, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5DF. Public Health Laboratory Service. 1990. ISBN 0-901144-27-4.

The acronym ToRCH was devised by Andre Nahmias in 1971 to highlight the importance of *Toxoplasma gondii* (To), Rubella virus (R), Cytomegalovirus (C) and Herpes simplex virus (H) in congenital infection. Because the acronym did not cover all the recognised aetiological agents, it was in common usage modified to TORCH, 'O' embracing 'other' organisms. Since then, the importance of hepatitis B, human immunodeficiency virus, and parvovirus (B19) have been recognised. The increasing spectrum of pathogenic agents coupled with concern by many microbiologists about the appropriateness of many requests for "TORCH screen" led the Public Health Laboratory Service to convene a working party whose remit was to suggest guidelines appropriate to diagnostic laboratories. The working party extended their remit to include not only congenital infections, but also perinatal and neonatal infections, and this short monograph is the result of their labours.

The epidemiology of the different congenital infections, their prevention, the methods of laboratory diagnosis, and problems relating to these tests are dealt with separately for each organism in a clear and concise manner. I was sorry, however, that no mention was made in this section of the *Chlamydia psittaci* infections of ovine origin. There are additional sections which review the problems of notification and quantification of congenital infections and sampling methods for prenatal diagnosis. A further section deals with perinatal and neonatal acquired infections.

The working party reached various conclusions and made 13 recommendations; the first being that "TORCH" be abolished and that physicians request specific tests appropriate to the individual case. To this end the monograph includes five algorithms for the investigation of low birth weight, purpura, jaundice, microcephaly, and neonatal seizures. Even though I support these proposals, I fear that dissemination of this message to the clinician and changing requesting patterns will not be an easy process.

This monograph is extremely readable, has an excellent bibliography, although I spotted several incorrect references, and gives clear cut advice. I recommend it to laboratory worker, neonatologist, and obstetrician alike.

RH GEORGE

Pathology of the Nose and Paranasal Sinuses. HB Hellquist. (Pp 164; £49.50.) Butterworths. 1990. ISBN 0-407-01270-2.

There have been several monographs on this subject in recent years. This one is noteworthy in the special attention paid to the scientific background of the subject. In particular the chapter on diseases caused by toxic environmental exposure gives much interesting information.

It is intended particularly for histopathologists, but descriptions of scleroma, inverted papilloma, adenoid cystic carcinoma, and bone tumours, among the important pathological lesions, will provide little aid for our

diagnostic struggles with difficult nasal biopsies. In contrast, there is much detail on the histopathology of Wegener's granulomatosis, but insufficient warning that its diagnosis should be based on systemic clinical and renal, not nasal biopsy, criteria.

In spite of these criticisms I can recommend this book to anyone interested in nasal disease. In its broad approach to disease processes it is properly a "pathology" text in a difficult and little explored field, rather than a bench manual on a small part of the histopathology service.

L MICHAELS

NOTICES

Clinical Laboratory Molecular Analysis

February 13-15, 1991

Hyatt Regency Hotel, La Jolla, California, USA

This, the thirteenth annual conference on clinical laboratory immunochemical and molecular assays, is designed for pathologists, technologists, clinical chemists, microbiologists, and other medical laboratory personnel. Presentations showing the recent research developments in the pathogenesis and aetiology of disease processes, new technology, and future directions in clinical laboratory assays will be offered by a distinguished faculty of renowned scientists. Fee \$375.00.

For further information, contact: Laurie J. Jones, Department of Academic Affairs, Box 400S Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037. Telephone: (619) 554-9592

Methods of Immunologic Research and Diagnosis

An at-the-bench laboratory training program

The Ernest Witebsky Center for Immunology, University at Buffalo, State University of New York 2-14 June 1991.

Daily practical laboratory exercises personally carried out by participants, accompanied by lectures, demonstrations and discussions.

Contact James F Mohn, MD, Director, The Ernest Witebsky Center for Immunology, 234 Sherman Hall, Buffalo, New York 14214. Telephone: 716 831-2848 or 831-2901, FAX: 716 831-3395.

Inquiries should be received by 15 March 1991 to insure consideration for acceptance.

Association of Clinical Pathologists

Junior Membership

Junior membership of the Association is available to medical practitioners who have been engaged in the practice of pathology for a period of less than four years. Junior members are able to remain in this category for a maximum of six years or on the attainment of consultant status. The annual subscription is £24 for those resident in the United Kingdom and £55 for those overseas. The annual subscription may be claimed against tax.

Junior members receive the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* each month. Other benefits are reduced registration fees to attend ACP scientific meetings, all the documents regularly sent to full members of the Association including *ACP News*, which has a regular column for juniors, and the twice yearly summary of pathology courses included in the ACP programme of postgraduate education. Junior members have their own representative body, the Junior Members' Group, which has a direct input to Council.

For Junior Membership apply to: The Honorary Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, School of Biological Sciences, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QG. (0273) 678435.

The Nottingham Breast Cancer Screening Training Unit

Breast fine needle aspiration cytology

A one day Master Class on Tuesday 18 December 1990, presented by Dr J L Peterse from the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam.

A two day course on Monday and Tuesday 25 and 26 March, 1991.

A comprehensive course on Breast FNA cytology run in conjunction with the BSCC. Topics covered include symptomatic and screening breast disease, sampling techniques, diagnostic features, reporting methods and problem conditions.

Speakers include A Herbert, J Lamb, P Lever, E McGoogan, G McKee, P Trott, and members of the Nottingham Breast Screening Training Team. The course includes lectures and workshop teaching.

For details of either course contact:

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