

account of the application of positron emission tomography to the identification of opiate receptors in the human brain. This chapter, however, fails to point out the much greater potential of the technique to clinical pharmacology, provided that the investigator has access to a cyclotron to produce the necessary short lived isotopes. I found the next chapter, which deals essentially with the pharmacodynamics of antihypertensive drugs, equally complex—not from a technological viewpoint but rather from the authors' stoical treatment of the subject. Similarly, chapter 7 is an unmoving account of the "clinical pharmacology of skin" which is a shame because "skin is one of the larger human organs and acts as a barrier between internal and external environments." This chapter could have interfaced well with chapter 11 on "Pesticide use—risk or safety" because the dividing line is often the pesticide's dermal absorption. Thus in short, some general guidance/overview of the contents in the form of a foreword by the editors would have been very much appreciated by this reader. I could relate much more easily to the more dynamic and personalised chapters dealing with atrial natriuretic factor, prostaglandins, and the gastrointestinal tract, the use of nitrates in treatment of angina etc, as well as that on drugs and male reproductive function. Finally, the chapters dealing with genetic polymorphisms underlying iatrogenic disease, dealing with the role of oncogenes in human carcinogenesis, describe the frontiers of the molecular approach to modern medicine. Sandwiched in between these intellectually stimulating layers are reasonable accounts of adverse reactions to drugs in the elderly, the use of antidotes in selected cases of human poisoning, and an overview of aluminium toxicity.

In general, the volume and its editors are to be commended for undertaking a Herculean task resulting from the incorporation of a multidisciplinary subject such as toxicology into the series title.

Although this may broaden the appeal of the series, its contents inevitably embrace the adage that "one man's meat is another's poison."

A PAINE

Cytopathology of Soft Tissue and Bone Tumors. Monographs in Clinical Cytology. Vol 12. SI Hajdu, EO Hajdu. (Pp 348; 495 figs £100.) Karger. 1989. ISBN 3-8055-4814-1.

This book is a well written addition to the *Monographs in Clinical Cytology* series and is a thoroughly researched guide to the myriad soft tissue and bone lesions that abound. The first chapter, which gives a detailed account of histogenesis and classification, and the appendices listing differential diagnoses, immunochemical reactions, and ultrastructural features of soft tissue "tumours," make this an ideal reference book for pathologists.

An interesting aspect is the combination of x ray appearances, clinical features, and detailed histological findings in most of the conditions discussed. Only a small number of the entities described, however, have detailed cytological descriptions and photomicrographs, indirectly emphasising the fact that a definitive diagnosis of soft tissue neoplasms is nearly impossible in fine needle aspiration cytology.

Unfortunately this book does not fulfil its goal—to be a useful guide on the cytopathology of soft tissues and bones—as it contains very little on typical cytological features seen in fine needle aspirates.

GRACE MCKEE

Genetic Analysis of Tumour Suppression. Ciba Foundation Symposium 142. (Pp 258; £32.50.) John Wiley. 1989. ISBN 0 471 92299 4.

Recorded here are the proceedings of some thoughtful and obviously lively debates following formal presentations by scientists who have made major contributions to work related to tumour suppression. Each paper reviews past results and often previews current results from different laboratories.

The phenomenon of tumour suppression was first identified 20 years ago in somatic cell hybrids between normal and malignant cells: the hybrids proved not to be malignant. Henry Harris and George Klein made those initial observations and both men contribute to this symposium. A large number of tumour suppressor genes have been identified in *Drosophila*. One of the best described is the *l(2)gl* gene: Bernard Mechler presented his laboratory's recent results suggesting that the critical period for the establishment of tumorigenesis in *l(2)gl* mutants occurs very early in development. Much excitement has attended the first cloning in Robert Weinberg's laboratory of a human tumour suppressor gene, *Rb*, associated with retinoblastoma. Results he presented suggest that the *Rb* mutation leads to non-expression of a receptor for a negative regulatory growth factor on the surface of fetal retinal cells.

There are more than a dozen examples of mapped loci where loss of genetic information predisposes to different cancers. With rapid advances in both human genome mapping techniques and reverse genetics, it is likely that many more genes will be identified and new insights gained into tumourigenesis.

This Ciba Symposium makes a spirited and welcome contribution to what George Klein has called this emerging era of tumour suppressor genes. The book will be useful to those entering this field who seek a topical overview.

MAR YUILLE

Cell Kinetics of the Inflammatory Reaction. Ed CL Berry, E Grundemann. Current Topics in Pathology. Vol 79. (Pp 320; DM 190.) Springer. 1989. ISBN 3-540-19459-2.

The volume consists of a series of short reviews on the kinetics of the major cell types involved in the inflammatory reaction—neutrophil granulocytes, B and T lymphocytes, dendritic leucocytes, monocyte/macrophages and mast cells. Each chapter deals with the origin, differentiation, migration, functional role and mode of elimination of a particular cell type and its principal interactions with other cell types and physiological control mechanisms. The editor has been successful in persuading his eminent contributors to give comprehensive papers without undue overlap or gross omissions. The volume gives a balanced overview that will make it particularly valuable to

newcomers to the field of cell kinetics of inflammation, but the individual chapters will also be useful to established workers because all are informed critical reviews with informative contemporary references.

The chapter on molecular events in liver regeneration is a scholarly review, but it is misplaced as its presumed audience is unlikely to read a book on inflammation.

J SWANSON-BECK

Medical Mycology. A Practical Approach. The Practical Approach Series. Ed EGV Evans, MD Richardson. (Pp 300; paperback £25; hardback £37.50.) Oxford University Press. 1989. ISBN 0 19 963011 9 (paperback) and 0 19 963010 0 (hardback).

In this book the techniques for the isolation, culture, and identification of yeasts and filamentous and dimorphic fungi capable of causing human infection are comprehensively described. Chapters on the identification of culture contaminants, fungal serology, assay of antifungal drugs and histopathology of mycoses make this book a complete manual for laboratory investigation of fungal diseases.

Subdivision of each of the 12 chapters into numbered sections makes every stage of a procedure easy to follow and facilitates quick cross reference. All techniques are described in detail, including the composition of media, reagents, and stains. The text is well illustrated with diagrams and black and white photographs. Colour plates in chapters describing colony morphology and histopathology would have been very welcome.

All 15 authors (predominantly from the United Kingdom) are highly regarded mycologists whose critical choice of methods has clearly arisen from their own personal experience. The editors are to be congratulated in presenting this expertise in a well structured format which makes this book a requisite for all laboratories wishing to undertake the diagnosis of fungal infections.

GR JONES

A Colour Atlas of the Digestive System. RE Pounder, MC Allison, AP Dhillon. (Pp 232; £30.00.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1989. ISBN 0 7234 0886 6.

This atlas illustrates all aspects of the digestive system, including mouth, oesophagus, stomach, duodenum, pancreas, small and large intestine, appendix, and anus. Skin, stomas, and hernias are also included. The liver and biliary system are not covered (a comparison volume by Sherlock and Summerfield does this), although there are ERCP radiographs of sclerosing cholangitis and haemobilia.

Atlases suffer from the inherent problem of only being able to cover their field in a superficial way and this one is no exception. This atlas, however, scores by the wide range of its coverage. Of particular interest to pathologists will be the clinical photographs of such conditions as acanthosis nigricans, Grey-Turner's sign in acute pancreatitis, dermatitis herpetiformis, pellagra, typhoid, and various Kaposi lesions. There are also particularly good pictures of a variety of worms and anal lesions. There are good examples of computed tomography scans and

radiographs of most of the diseases where these investigations are useful. Also of interest to pathologists are photographs of instruments such as a Sengstaken tube, biopsy forceps, endoscopes, and a series illustrating an endoscopic polypectomy. There is a good series of normal colonoscopic photographs. Other endoscopic pictures are of variable quality.

The pathology content is fairly comprehensive, but is of variable quality and includes little which is not easily found and better illustrated in standard reference works and other atlases. It is likely that the histological photographs will appeal more to non-pathologists. A photomicrograph of dermatitis herpetiformis is hardly necessary, especially as it is not a particularly good one. Intestinal metaplasia of gastric mucosa could be better illustrated. A section stained with alcian blue periodic acid schiff which purports to show duodenitis shows only gastric metaplasia. There are good macro-photographs of inflammatory bowel disease, but many of the operative and gross photographs suffer from the wet, bloody appearance characteristic of fresh specimens. This is particularly obvious in the photograph of surgery for oesophageal varices.

The text is not particularly illuminating. A small percentage of adenomatous polyps are said to "undergo changes amounting to carcinoma-in-situ". Double contrast barium enema is stated to be "the standard method of making the diagnosis of colorectal carcinoma". The legend to the photomicrograph of anal carcinoma compares and contrasts the tumour with basal cell carcinoma of skin and uses the spelling "basiloid", although there are generally few typographical or factual errors. The index is succinct but adequate.

In summary this atlas is notable for its comprehensive rather than its profound coverage of all aspects of gastroenterology. As such it will be useful to pathologists for its liberal visual images of clinical situations which would otherwise remain in the exclusive experience of colleagues in other disciplines. It is very good value for money.

IC TALBOT

Robbins' Pathologic Basis of Disease. RS Cotran, V Kumar, SL Robbins. 4th ed. (Pp 1519; £37.) Saunders. 1989. ISBN 0-7216-2302-6.

The current editions of large American textbooks of pathology are the best yet produced anywhere and choice depends on personal preference, allegiance, and "feel". The new fourth edition of "Robbins" runs to 1519 pages in a single volume. The stated aims are to bring recent advances in biomedical knowledge to the bedside, to present the pathogenesis of diseases and explain their structural and functional alterations, and to provide the student with a clear explanation of conditions he encounters during training. A third of the book is devoted to "general" pathology—that is, cell injury, body response, genetics, immunology and neoplasia. The text is concise and helpful and concepts are well presented and are adequately illustrated with diagrams. A number of "intermediate" chapters follow on infections, nutrition, environmental influences, and the pathology of infancy/childhood and old age. The remainder of the book is devoted to a systematic treatment of

disorders of organs and soft tissues. There are abundant references for further reading. Colour is restricted to the text where essentials are picked out in shades of pink but illustrations remain in black and white. All in all, this edition of "Robbins" is a substantial, well written, and up to date textbook of pathology for senior undergraduate and junior postgraduate training. It is, moreover, remarkably good value for money.

PP ANTHONY

Chlamydia. PA Mardh, J Paavonen, M Puolakkainen. (Pp 370; \$50.) Plenum Medical Book Company. 1989. ISBN 0-306-42965-9.

Numerous chapters and reviews on chlamydial infections, as well as an avalanche of original papers, outstripped only by those on HIV and AIDS, have appeared in the past decade. Clearly the authors felt it was time to bring together what is known in the form of a book. They have the credentials to do so, being prominent investigators, at least in the human field. Of the 36 chapters, those on diagnosis, various aspects of human genital tract disease and treatment, including antimicrobial susceptibility testing, are the best. Some of the other chapters, including that on basic microbiology, are less comprehensive; that on vaccines is sparse and disjointed, that on Reiter's syndrome fails to comment on the relevance of elementary bodies in joints except from a diagnostic viewpoint, and I suspect veterinarians will be disappointed by the chapters on *C psittaci*. Indeed, such avian infection receives no more attention than periappendicitis. Technically, the book is also not faultless. Table 14 in the text (p 81) refers to table 15 (and vice versa) and tables 15 and 16 (p 93) should be 16 and 17. Furthermore, a few references in the text are not in the final list. Some purists will raise an eyebrow about the book's name being a severed binomial, but it's easy to be over-critical and I'm sure it will find a useful place, and not only because it contains 1063 references. At about £30 it should have a readership outside libraries.

D TAYLOR-ROBINSON

NOTICES

Certificate of Competence in Cytology Screening (recognised by the Department of Health for entry to the cytology screener grade)

Examination dates and venues:

Tuesday February 13, 1990—Northwick Park Hospital, London.

Friday June 1, 1990—Southmead Hospital, Bristol (closing date for applications: April 20, 1990).

There will be an examination in Liverpool in the autumn. Date to be arranged

Further particulars and application forms from: Dr E McCoogan, Chairman, BSCC Examination Committee, Department of Pathology, University Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh EH8 9AG.

National Heart and Lung Institute

Course in Cardiopulmonary Pathology
June 11–15 1990
Brompton Hospital, London

A course of lectures, hands-on microscopy sessions, and a slide seminar. The lung and cardiac modules may be taken separately.

Lecturers will include:

B J Addis, R H Anderson, A E Becker, M J Davies, B Fox, D M Geddes, S Y Ho, P K Jeffery, M N Sheppard and C A Wagenvoort

Course fee:

Lung pathology (June 11–13 1990) £150.00

Cardiac pathology (June 14–15 1990) £100.00

Full course (June 11–15 1990) £225.00

Further details from:

Postgraduate Education Centre

National Heart & Lung Institute

Dovehouse Street

London SW3 6LY

Telephone: 01-351 8172 (24 h answering service)

Facsimile: 01-376 3442

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.