

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.