

**Biopsy Pathology of the Endometrium.** CH Buckley, H Fox. Biopsy Pathology Series 14. (Pp 289; £55.) Chapman and Hall. 1989. ISBN 0-412-23530-7.

The latest in this generally rather useful series of bench books is devoted to the endometrium, in which context "biopsy" is taken to include curettings and also gestational products. The text is notable for its clarity of presentation and if it is a little dogmatic, the approach is always reasoned and as full of common sense as we have come to expect from these authors. The subject matter ranges through sampling techniques, normal appearances, functional and hormonal effects, inflammatory, hyperplastic, neoplastic and gestational conditions, and ends with a helpful chapter in which possible diagnoses are related to the common clinical gynaecological presentations such as menorrhagia or infertility.

In looking up a number of common histopathological problem areas I discovered many helpful comments but also a few indexing idiosyncrasies (for example, try finding the description of disordered proliferative endometrium or of endometritis), and on the whole it is easier to find what you want from the chapter headings at the front of the book rather than from the index.

This book will undoubtedly become widely used and I would recommend it for all those histopathology departments who receive a significant number of UCs and POCs; and that must be just about everybody.

J CROW

**The Mosaic of Autoimmunity. The Factors Associated with Autoimmune Disease.** Research Monographs in Immunology. Vol 12. Y Schoenfeld, D Isenberg. (Pp 536; hardback \$150.00; paperback \$65.75.) Elsevier. 1989. ISBN 0-444-81063-3.

This book is a pleasure to read and conveys the enjoyment and understanding of autoimmune disease clearly held by the authors. It is about mechanisms rather than individual diseases, and as such is a welcome addition to immunological and rheumatological collections of books. There are chapters on many different aspects of autoimmunity, including accounts of autoantibodies in healthy subjects, the idiotype network, and infection and autoimmunity; these were all informative, clear, and well written. Unlike the standard multi-author tome, this is a book written by its two authors with many up to date references, and there are admirable précis of current views on subjects such as heat shock proteins and HIV infection and autoimmunity. The only critical comment I can manage concerns the layout of the text, which is given a rather boring appearance by the publishers, an appearance that hides an invariably interesting and often fascinating account of autoimmunity. Although the simple ideas I held as a student—that autoantibodies directly caused diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis are no longer tenable—this book convinces me that autoimmunity remains a major pathological mechanism in a range of different diseases and it gives a superb distillation of our present knowledge about autoimmunity.

DL SCOTT

**Digestive Disease Pathology.** Vol II. Ed S Watanabe, M Wolff, SC Sommers. (Pp 182; DM 138.) Springer. 1989. ISBN 3-540-50104-5.

Gastrointestinal pathology still holds many mysteries and there is always a place for publications highlighting diagnostic problems and envisaging future developments. This book succeeds in both respects. We are, for example, stimulated to think more seriously about the possibilities for intestinal transplantation and (if we have not already done so) to become familiar with the potential effects of HIV infection on the gastrointestinal tract. There is also a timely reminder that electron microscopy retains an important role, not only in characterising tumours or identifying their metastases, but in assessing and in investigating conditions such as Whipple's disease and Crohn's disease. The sections relating to early oesophageal cancer and certain aspects of salivary neoplasia including immunohistochemistry are to be welcomed, as is the updated review of stromal tumours in the gastrointestinal tract. Nor is liver disease neglected; and it is salutary to be introduced to the complexities of the hepatic circulation. All in all, this is a stimulating and in places illuminating book, and it is to be hoped that there will be further publications in this series.

FD LEE

**Progress in AIDS Pathology.** Vol 1. Ed H Rotterdam, SC Sommers, P Racz, PR Meyer. (Pp 251; £55.) WW Norton & Company Ltd. 1989.

This book is the first in a series which intends to, "offer a forum to diagnostic pathologists and researchers dealing with AIDS to discuss their findings and thoughts, thus enabling the pathology community at large to keep up to date with the everchanging manifestations of this protean disease".

In its 17 chapters the book covers a range of topics from an overview of the histopathology of HIV infection to defining and implementing a national AIDS prevention strategy. The heart of the book is five chapters on various neuropathological manifestations of HIV infection. These represent the most complete compilation of HIV neuropathology that I have come across. Collectively, they make a good source of information on the wide range of conditions which occur in the nervous system. These chapters alone recommend the book to anyone with an interest in the neuropathology of HIV.

The other chapters vary greatly in relevance and potential interest to the wider pathological community. Most will probably find a chapter on ultrastructural markers and interferon concentrations in HIV positive patients treated with D-penicillamine arcane. On the other hand, a chapter called "The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and neoplasia" is a thorough and fair account of this topic which any pathologist or trainee might find a useful review.

This book is not intended as a diagnostic atlas, or even as a comprehensive review of differential diagnosis. It therefore probably will not appeal to most practising pathologists or trainees. To the pathologist with a particular interest in AIDS or to neuro-

pathologists who want a good review of current knowledge, however, this volume has much to recommend it. As with all "Progress in . . ." volumes, you can interest some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but not all the people all of the time.

AW BOYLSTON

## NOTICES

### National Training Centre for Breast Screening Pathology

A one day workshop in Breast Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology for pathologists

Monday 24th September 1990 at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford

Registration fee: £25

For further details and application forms contact: Dr Grace McKee, Department of Cytopathology, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Egerton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XX. Telephone (0483) 571122 X 4373/4257



**BPMF**

University of London

**British Postgraduate Medical Federation**

**Histopathology Course 1990-1991**

There will be a course for SHO's and registrars to provide training in histopathology for the new MRCPath Part 1 examination which begins in May 1992. It will be held on Wednesday afternoons at St Bartholomew's Hospital, and will consist of lectures and slide seminars with emphasis on diagnosis and mechanisms of disease.

The course will run from 3 October 1990-13 March 1991 and is the first in a series of three. The second and third courses will be offered from October 1991 and October 1992 respectively.

Places are restricted and early application is advised.

**Cost £517**

Application forms, which must be returned by 24 August 1990, may be obtained from:

*The Education Department, BPMF, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ. Telephone 071-831 6222 extension 155*

### 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 David Melcher, Histopathology Department, Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE.