

with inflammation (such as gastritis) or with tumours, receive surprisingly terse treatment. This is particularly true of anal dysplasia (granular cell tumour of the anus receives twice the space); I feel that the book may have been too long in gestation to catch the recent surge of interest in AIN and HPV. It also seems extraordinary that carcinomas of oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large bowel should be included in chapters at the very end of the book, entitled "other tumours of the oesophagus", etc. While most of these chapters are authoritative, this reviewer felt that those on carcinomas of anus and small bowel were less useful than they should be for a contemporary book of this size. Such a criticism cannot be made of the chapter on gut-associated lymphoid tumours (not included in "other tumours" but with pride of place on its own). This topic uniquely lends itself to the book's approach, and is exceptionally well written and well illustrated. Other notable successes are the coverage of Hirschsprung's disease and chapters on every conceivable form of volvulus, hernia, and obstruction due to mechanical abnormalities. The chapter on neuromuscular abnormalities of small and large intestine, although erudite, reveals that there is much to learn before pathologists can usefully contribute to solving these problems.

Technically, the illustrations are variable in quality. There are many excellent gross and histological photographs as well as good line diagrams. Surprising omissions are a gross picture of a solitary ulcer of the rectum, and photomicrographs of an inflammatory cloacogenic polyp, and an inflammatory fibroid polyp. The text is, despite the above reservations, written in good uniform grammatical style, with few typographical errors, a tribute to the editor.

In summary, this very multi-author book is of predictably variable quality. It is a brave attempt to cover comprehensively the entire subject, but, as with an early edition of an encyclopedia, it has a long way to go before it can be regarded as a reference book coherent and complete enough to compete with the exceptionally good competition ("Morson and Dawson") which it closely matches in price and size.

IC TALBOT

Surgical Pathology of the Breast. K Rogers, AJ Coup. (Pp 143; £39.50.) Butterworths. 1990. ISBN 0-7236-90965-9.

The stated aim of the authors is to provide a book for undergraduate and postgraduate students in medicine and for trainee pathologists. The book attempts to put together practical surgical points, physical signs, and symptoms of breast disease and to correlate these with pathology.

In this aim I feel the book does succeed in giving a multidisciplinary view of breast disease. It does, however, suffer from a few problems. The first and most major being the omission of mammographic and ultrasound correlation with the entities described. Secondly, while the colour plates are good, many of the black and white histological photographs suffer from a rather peculiar variation in lighting: some of these are so low power that some of the histological features are not readily seen. The book also suffers

from the lack of references, and some of the factual content varies from the currently accepted physiology and pathology, albeit in a minor way.

It is a shame that the authors have not followed the terminology for breast disease recommended for use in the National Screening Programme at a time when a major attempt to standardise terminology is being made. In summary, this book will be useful for undergraduate and postgraduate students, but its usefulness is limited as a text for pathologists and particularly those involved with breast screening because of the absence of adequate radiographic correlation.

C WELLS

IgE, Mast Cells and the Allergic Response. Ciba Foundation Symposium 147. (Pp 282; £32.50.) John Wiley. 1989. ISBN 0-471-92309-5.

This book documents papers presented at a Ciba Foundation Symposium in April 1989. There are 14 scientific chapters that together approach the subject of the Symposium in terms of immunology, epidemiology, pharmacology, molecular biology and genetics. Each paper offers a good synopsis of current thinking, as well as concentrating on detailed experimental data from each author's own work.

The presentation throughout is clear and, although selective, the references given are quite adequate. It is commendable that a significant number of 1989 publications are quoted. A particular bonus is the quality of the discussion (reported after each paper), which in many cases is as interesting to read as the paper itself, and contains important further information which puts the subject of each presentation in perspective.

Although mainly directed at a scientific audience, the studies described offer a valuable update to clinicians and pathologists interested in this field. For those researching in this area this book represents a most valuable text.

LW POULTER

Clinical Cytotechnology. DV Coleman, PA Chapman. (Pp 484; £65.) Butterworths. 1989. ISBN 0-407-00176-X.

The production of this book is a sign that clinical cytology has come to a certain age. The distillation of knowledge about the subject into an introductory textbook edited by a professor of cytopathology and a chief MLSO for a district hospital befits the huge impact on the practice of pathology that cytological diagnosis has achieved. The book follows the mould of student pathology texts and attempts to cover huge areas of general pathology, preparation, diagnosis, special investigations, and aspects of laboratory organisation. As an introduction for junior cytotechnologists, or for preparation for the new examinations, it should find a useful place. Some of the technical sections are very good. For practising pathologists, senior experienced cytology MLSOs, or the final MRCPATH candidate, consulting this book is

likely to prove as frustrating as it is helpful. There is insufficient detail for a comprehensive bench reference book and the didactic approach excludes any critical discussions of the role of cytology in diagnosis or screening. For a guide to the practice of cytology which evaluates its methods alongside other investigations in coping with clinical problems we must await the next age of cytology.

D JENKINS

Danish Medical Bulletin. Vol. 37 Supplement No 1. Medical Aspects of Torture. Free of Charge for foreign Medical Institutions on request. Danish Medical Association, Trondhjems gate 9, DK-2100, Copenhagen. Denmark.

This short monograph by a leading expert in the study of torture and its sequelae represents an excellent source of information on the types of torture encountered today, and the effects and the participation by members of the medical profession in such inhumane acts.

Although it might be thought that exposure to torture victims in medical practice in the United Kingdom would be rare and confined to forensic specialists, 2% of the cases presented come from this country—a sobering thought indeed.

D ROUSE

The Cystic Kidney. Ed KD Gardner, J Bernstein. (Pp 444; £95.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1990. ISBN 0-7923-039-2.

Cystic diseases of the kidney are a source of both interest and worry to pathologists. Their classification is often confusing and, although some types are familiar, others are rare and poorly recognised. Their widely differing clinical and genetic implications, however, demand accurate diagnosis and interpretation.

This excellent and compact volume is a compendium of helpful and up to date information on this difficult subject. It is multi-authored, the contributors being well recognised experts, mostly from North America. It is set out as a series of essays, each prefaced by a useful synopsis. The first two sections cover the pathogenesis of renal cysts and include much fascinating recent work with a stimulating contribution by Reeders on the exciting advances in molecular pathology.

The other sections are more practical, covering classification, systemic manifestations, clinical management, and the increasingly important sphere of diagnostic imaging. The last section gives detailed descriptions of the various types of renal cystic disease.

This book is highly recommended for departmental libraries, although the price might deter individual purchasers without a special interest. It can be read in toto by those seeking education or studying for the MRCPATH and, selectively, by those needing help for a specifying problem.

RA RISDON