In general the chapters vary between useful treatises for the surgical pathologist, as for example, the hypothyroidism and neurohypophysis, the thyroid gland, the parathyroid glands, the endocrine pancreas and essays, each consisting of a condensed introduction to the subject in general followed by a brief application to its role in endocrine diseases. This entails repetition of aspects already detailed in Endocrine Anatomic Pathology, but it is sometimes convenient and instructive to find disperse facts housed under one cover. Most of the essays give the outsider a clear view of the subject. A few are too condensed or hypertechnical for reasonable readability.

This is a beautifully published and illustrated book. The problem in this type of multisubject work is the question of the readership. I'm afraid that the busy surgical pathologist is likely to skip most of the essays and that the enquiring clinician will refer only to the large tomes devoted to clinical endocrinology. On the other hand, anyone carrying out endocrine research, documenting case reports, searching for a reference, or teaching the subject will benefit and derive pleasure from these two volumes. They should be made available in every medical library.

I DONIACH


This publication is coincident with the government initiatives in general practice to establish contractual arrangements to provide health promotion and screening as well as to re-evaluate the relationship between general practitioners and laboratory services. There is a danger that indiscriminate testing may ensue to the despair of the laboratories and no doubt the delight of the test strip manufacturers (Mant & Fowler, Br Med J 1990:1053-5).

The book is divided into three sections: (1) The introduction gives an outline of the history and relevance of localised urine testing, followed by a simple but comprehensive chapter on the formation and physical characteristics of urine. (2) Disease related—a trip down a urine multistest stick looking at the use of sticks or local tests for the detection of glycosuria, ketonuria, haematuria, proteinuria, microalbuminuria, urinary tract infection and bile pigments. (3) Practice related—a comprehensive coverage of views from specialists in several fields of clinical and community practice.

The book should be useful to anyone involved in clinical care, either in hospital or community, particularly to the intending and toxicological application being covered. Credit should be given for inclusion of emphasis on adequate training and interpretation. The chapters are concise and useful margin highlights and many clear tables for quick reference, but the lack of an index is regrettable. There is good coverage of false positive tests and the possible situations, usually in clear tabular form, although sensitivity and specificity of tests could be emphasised further.

Although some advice is given on further laboratory based investigations, an overall impression may be gained that management of patients can be achieved by side-room tests and knowledge of epidemiology alone. This particularly applies to the microbiological section where laboratory services are described as slow and more expensive than stick tests. There is some contradiction found in this approach and the prediction of normal urine protein concentration, where on opposite pages one finds the statements: "Random samples . . . (implied to be measured by stick)... can be used to evaluate proteinuria" and "All patients who have urine warrant a 24-hour protein estimation."

Throughout the book one is reminded of other interests of the publishers because very chapter of a different field, for example, Ames products which are presented in upper case lettering, as if only those tests are available.

In summary, the book contains much useful and concise information and deserves a place near any near-patient testing, but may leave the user with a somewhat misguided impression of the extent of their analytical prowess.

RW MAINWARING-BURTON


Invasive fungal infections remain a serious problem in hospital practice, especially in the immunocompromised, where they continue to be leading cause of death and mortality. The advent of AIDs has meant that many more hospitals in the United Kingdom are now coming face to face with such problems—accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and prophylaxis. Despite the improvement in diagnostic techniques and the emergence of new antifungal drugs, serious fungal infections continue to pose important questions—an ever increasing variety found in immunocompromised patients, re-emergence of classic infections in modified form, and our continued reliance on amphotericin for the treatment of invasive aspergillosis, to name a few.

Because of such therapeutic difficulties the editors have brought out an updated second edition of their monograph which first appeared in 1982, just after the AIDS story broke. Their intention is to gather in a single volume the immunological, mycological, clinical and therapeutic viewpoints of the different fungal infections found in such patients. The first two chapters are devoted to pathogenesis and the prediction of infection, followed by another seven devoted to the more common fungal pathogens. One describes rarer infections such as "halophy- phosphomyces" and a new contribution is on the clinical manifestations and management of superficial fungal infections in compromised hosts. The final chapter reviews the different approaches used for the serodiagnosis of primary and reactivation infections. As a clinical microbiologist actively involved in the care of such patients and their infective episodes, have the editors been successful in their stated aims? The answer must be an unqualified yes. This volume needs to be within easy reach of all clinicians involved in the multidisciplinary approach now adopted in the management of infected immunocompromised patients.

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