induction in lymph nodes affected by metastatic growth of adenocarcinoma, and (c) macrophages/reticulum cells in early and late phases of lymphogenetic metastases, present in considerable detail experimental data on the patterns of early metastatic spread and formation of established colonies with respect to lymphoid and histiocytic reactions and fibronectin deposition. The detail would be of primary interest to those with a specialist interest in metastasis.

The chapter on primary immunodeficiency syndromes and their manifestations in lymph nodes is an extremely comprehensive detailed review of this complex subject, and is recommended to those with an interest in these rare conditions as pre-exam reading.

The two chapters on AIDS deal with immunological disregulation of lymph nodes and lymph node reaction patterns. Both subjects are dealt with in detail and would be a useful reference material for histopathologists dealing with lymph node biopsy specimens from patients with AIDS.

In conclusion, it is difficult to recommend this book to the jobbing clinical pathologist as large sections present detailed experimental results. The topics dealt with, although on the theme of lymph node reactions, are probably of interest to different specialty groups.


The absence of any electron micrographs was a serious omission in the last edition of Evans, published in 1978. In this new and considerably enlarged edition this has been corrected with the addition of a special chapter which is, in effect, an excellent short atlas of tumour ultrastructure. Time marches on, however, and in the interim since the last edition important advances have been made, particularly in the understanding of tumour biology and pathology.

The absence of even a gesture to either of these new techniques, this book cannot entirely be said “to be helpful to practising histopathologists and to their clinical colleagues in their daily work as well as to trainees and research workers” which is its stated aim. Sadly, it is not just that this new edition has not kept up with the times; the quality of the photomicrographs, never a strong point in previous editions, has deteriorated considerably. This is partly the responsibility of the publishers, and partly that of the author who has added many new figures, most of which are either poorly focused, unevenly illuminated, or both. The figures are, therefore, largely unhelpful to the pathologist indulging in “picture matching” and sometimes frankly misleading. This is true, too, of the text which somehow retains the flavour of the first (1956) edition both in style and content.

The task entailed in writing a book of this nature is now almost certainly beyond the capability of any single author. If there is to be another edition of Evans, and I doubt whether this is advisable, it will have to be a multi-authored, multivolume work which retains virtually none of the original text or illustrations. Meanwhile, any pathologist contemplating buying this book would be better advised to spend £150 ensuring that his or her collection of fascicles of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Atlas of Tumor Pathology is up to date.

PG ISAACSON


This is the second edition of a book which has proved to be a popular introductory text on the biology of cancer. In this second edition the authors have expanded some of the chapters where there have recently been important advances in our knowledge, but they have also added more information on viral and chemical carcinogenesis and corrected some errors present in the first edition.

The book is divided into 19 chapters, covering the complete spectrum of cancer research, with discussions of molecular changes through to the biology of cancer epidemiology. The chapters concerned with chromosomal changes, the role of growth factors, and immunotherapy all appear to have been expanded since the first edition. Each chapter has a different author, but they are all experts in their field and overall the book is very readable.

The book might be of value to clinicians or pathologists who wish to learn about the current ideas concerning the underlying molecular mechanisms of malignant transformation of cells, as well as to molecular biologists who want to know more about cancer in general. I would, however, primarily recommend this book as an introductory text for those research workers or students approaching the study of cancer for the first time. This book contains many tables and figures which are clear and for the most part useful, and it is reasonably priced.

MH GOWNS


The fields of molecular biology and immunology are among the most rapidly expanding and exciting in current medicine. This text sets out to tie together advances in these newer disciplines to more traditional metabolic pathways across the whole spectrum of acquired disease. This is a daunting task, and to accomplish it the luminary editors have assembled an impressive array of some 158 authors from four continents. The contents are exhaustive and divided into five main sections dealing with basic mechanisms of disease, environmental aspects, acquired metabolic disease, molecular and metabolic aspects of "non-metabolic" disease, and finally a section covering retroviruses. A vast
range of subjects is covered, from the more familiar to fascinating chapters dealing with molecular and metabolic aspects of aging and of space travel. Most topics are well covered by experts and the clarity of presentation and general high standard of writing is such that the text will be valuable to most medical pathology students.

There are always drawbacks to such large multi-author works. The time taken to assemble the text has dictated that many chapters have references no more recent than 1986, a failing in a book setting out to be "state of the art" and, for example, recent advances such as the possible role of Helicobacter pylori in peptic ulceration and use of monoclonal antibodies in endotoxic shock are barely mentioned. The adequacy of illustrations is also disappointing. There is more repetition between chapters than one would expect and although reiteration may be valuable as a teaching aid, it also makes the book too bulky for students. Overall, this is a good worthwhile publication and will undoubtedly be a valuable reference source in any medical library. There is much here of interest and value to more senior and ward clinicians and, though the breadth of subjects covered means at times fine detail is sacrificed. This and the prohibitive price may deter individual buyers.

RICHARD ANDREWS


This is a multidisciplinary handbook of laboratory investigations. The introduction provides valuable advice on patient preparation, sample collection, handling and transport—topics frequently neglected in books of this sort but an important potential source of invalid results which may not be apparent once the sample has reached the laboratory. The technique of venepuncture is described in detail, although a simple diagram would have enhanced the text.

The basis of each test, normal findings, and interpretation of abnormal results are discussed for each test, though unfortunately there are no references. Details of analytical methods are not included. Mass and SI units are used. The range of tests covered is vast: the foreword resorts to hyperbole and indicates that "virtually all clinically useful laboratory tests" are included, but while a random inspection yielded entries on antimitochondrial antibodies, complement assays, serum ferritin, haemoglobin electrophoresis, lactate dehydrogenase, pleural biopsy, semen collection and stool culture, I searched in vain for any test of intestinal fat absorption, or pancreatic exocrine function. The only test indexed under congenital adrenal hyperplasia is measurement of serum testosterone; cholesterol is not indexed, and although total cholesterol is included in the tests, the description for the statement "total cholesterol is the only category of cholesterol routinely measured." Nevertheless, there is much useful information here, and although individual laboratories should have their own handbooks of test protocols, this volume may find a place in the departmental library, particularly in multidisciplinary laboratories, as a source of information on less frequently requested tests.

WILLIAM MARSHALL