

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 postgraduate 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 1988, a clear 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, if at all. The general standard and 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 may also indicate a need for tighter editing.

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 most pathologists and ward clinicians, though the breadth of subjects covered means at times fine detail is sacrificed. This and the prohibitive price may deter individual buyers.

RICHARD ANDREWS

Clinical Laboratory Tests. Values and Implications. (Pp 724; soft cover £15.50). Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Ltd. 1991. ISBN 0-87434-270-8.

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 antimicrobial antibodies, complement assays, serum ferritin, haemoglobin electrophoresis, lactose tolerance test, 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 includes the statement, "total cholesterol is the only (form 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

Systemic Pathology. 3rd edn. Vol. 5. **The Lungs.** Ed. B Corrin. (Pp 496; £75). Churchill Livingstone. 1991. ISBN 0-443-03094-4.

The pathology of the lungs and pleura is comprehensively covered in this volume, with most chapters having been written by Professor Corrin and Dr Addis, and a contribution on carcinoma from Dr Mooi (Division of Tumour Biology, Netherlands Cancer Institute). All that you would expect from such a textbook is here including initial chapters on normal structure and developmental disease. Everything I have looked up has been clearly and succinctly explained and I was particularly struck by the excellence of the many illustrations, including gross specimens, histology, and high quality electron micrographs. There are also several very clear and helpful line diagrams to illustrate the architectural changes in conditions such as bronchiectasis, emphysema, the various types of interstitial pneumonia and different patterns of pulmonary fibrosis. Rare conditions of a double-barrelled eponymous nature are included, but the approach is essentially practical, and where knowledge is doubtful or there are problems in diagnosis, this is stated. This book will be a "must" for those departments who are collecting the *Systemic Pathology* series but it also stands on its own as an excellent reference manual of pulmonary pathology.

JULIE CROW

NOTICES

European Prevalence of Infection in Intensive Care Study

The EPIC Study International Advisory Committee is urging all Western European Intensive Care Units to take part in the European Prevalence of Infection in Intensive Care Study (The EPIC Study) on the 29 April 1992. Sponsored by Roussel Uclaf, further information is available from the EPIC Study Co-ordinator, Medical Action Communications, Action International House, Crabtree Office Village, Eversley Way, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey, TW20 8RY, UK.

Lung Pathology, London

June 1-4 1992

National Heart and Lung Institute, London

A comprehensive course of lectures and practical, hands-on microscopy sessions, the course is aimed at pathologists in training and consultant pathologists wishing to update their knowledge.

Fee £195 (or US\$335).

Further information from Professor B Corrin, Lung Pathology, Brompton Hospital, London SW3 6NP, UK. Fax: 071-351 8443. Tel: 071-351 8420.

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.

ACP

One day course

Bone marrow trephine interpretation

The Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield

Friday 19 June 1992

Organiser

Dr DWK Cotton

Lectures will take place in the morning. In the afternoon there will be a slide seminar with about 15 cases to examine, followed by a discussion. The cost will be £50 including coffee, lunch and tea.

Cheques to be made payable to University of Sheffield.

All queries to: Dr DWK Cotton, Department of Pathology, University of Sheffield Medical School, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield S10 2RX

Correction

In *J Clin Pathol* 1991;44:564-8; by Ratti G, an error occurred on page 565. "A solution containing all components but also sample DNA and DNA polymerase" should have read "A solution containing all the PCR reagents but sample DNA and DNA polymerase."