

**Implementing Quality Assurance.** Practical Laboratory Management Series. P Bozzo. (Pp 180; \$48.) Raven Press. 1991. ISBN 0-89189-290-7.

I read this book on the day after BBC radio had treated us to the famous 1938 broadcast of "The War of the Worlds", which had created such panic across America. It depicted a terrifying scenario of capsules arriving from outer space which discharged machines to destroy life as we know it. Imagine how I felt as I read through this book's chapter titles: the medical director's role in quality assurance; the quality assurance chairperson's role; the quality assurance program you have but did not document; risk management; dealing with the inspection. It seemed such an alien world. Was British pathology to be taken over in this way, devoting its time to "economic grand rounds" (chapter 7).

Joking aside, this book is an eye-opener. As British pathologists come to terms with the beginnings of formalised audit, it is fascinating to read about the present standards required of North American laboratories. The book is concerned principally with surgical pathology, cytology, and necropsies, although general points apply to all pathology disciplines. Many chapters are inappropriate for the British market but the three central chapters on methodology and QA (totalling 59 pages) would be valuable to QA organisers, to give them an idea of the breadth of the subject. The main message was a useful one; "An audit is not designed to be statistically significant and scientifically accurate but rather is simply designed to let you know if you have any problems". This book might help you with your latest problem—namely, audit itself.

SA DILLY

**Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases and other Nonneoplastic Disorders.** Guides to Clinical Aspiration Biopsy. Ed JF Silverman. (Pp 358; \$79.50.) Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers Inc. 1991. ISBN 4-260-14207-0.

This is the ninth book in a series of *Guides to Clinical Aspiration Biopsy* under the aegis of series editor, Tilde S Kline. There are seven contributors to the book but most of the chapters are written by Professor Silverman.

The aim of the book is summed up in the first few lines of the preface: "while FNA biopsy has been used primarily for the diagnosis of neoplasia, it is becoming increasingly apparent that many nonneoplastic mass lesions are sampled. Until recently, the main emphasis in the literature and practise has been on the aspiration biopsy cytologic diagnosis of benign and malignant neoplasms. This is ironic since the technique of aspiration biopsy cytology was originally used to obtain samples for the diagnosis of infectious diseases". (1904 Greig and Gray for the diagnosis of sleeping sickness in aspirates from lymph nodes).

The book is well written, well illustrated, and is easy to read. The chapter on the role of the clinical microbiology laboratory is particularly useful, especially culture protocols and what to think of when there is only a small amount of material to culture. On the

negative side is the fact that many of the same organisms appear in the separate chapters of different body sites.

The fine needle aspirate diagnosis of inflammation and the cause of the inflammation is certainly going to be required more frequently especially where infections are common or laboratory facilities are less than ideal and infectious agents can easily be identified by fine needle aspiration cytology.

DH MELCHER

**Pathology of the Colon, Small Intestine, and Anus.** 2nd ed. Ed HT Norris. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol 17. (Pp 414; 308 illustrations; £55.) Churchill Livingstone. 1991. ISBN 0-443-08729-6.

This is the second edition of the popular lower gut pathology volume in the *Contemporary Issues in Pathology* series. The 11 contributors represent a galaxy of gastrointestinal pathological stars from North America. The subject matter of each chapter and the authors are unchanged from the first edition but, as the preface so rightly says, so much has changed in the intervening eight years in all 11 subjects covered that each chapter has had to be extensively rewritten and updated. All the chapters make for excellent reading and useful reference: most include cited references up to 1989. Most important advances in lower gut pathology are covered, although it does seem a shame that two areas of such current interest, the lower gut in AIDS and bowel lymphoma, are not covered to any large extent. Among the noteworthy contributions are those on the differential diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) by Rodger Haggit and dysplasia in IBD by Robert Riddell. With regard to the latter, there must be some question marks against too rigid categorisation especially in view of the relatively poor agreement among experienced pathologists in interobserver studies of dysplasia in ulcerative colitis.

The title of this book perplexed me first time around and does so again—why does the colon come before the small bowel in North America and where have the appendix, caecum, and rectum gone?! The bizarre ordering is somewhat recapitulated in the chapter order. Most books would start with the pathology of the small bowel passing through the appendix, colon, and rectum and finishing up at the rear end. Many of the photomicrographs would not win awards and their reproduction is generally rather poor. All these mutterings apart, I feel the book makes for an excellent reference source for lower gut pathology and should be read by all practising histopathologists. It is not expensive and I recommend it.

NA SHEPHERD

**Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease and Other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies.** FO Bastian. (Pp 256; £46.50.) Wolfe Publishing. 1991. ISBN 0-8151-0517-7.

The aim of this book is to summarise the current position of basic research in a broad

clinicopathological perspective. The main author is a clinical neuropathologist and there are contributions from many experts on their relative areas of interest.

The first chapter provides a brief historical review; following this the book is divided into two main parts, each with several chapters. The first part deals with the characterisation of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies including the physico-chemical and biological properties of the agent, genetics, neuropathology, neurochemistry, immunology, and a review of the theories on the nature of the transmissible agent. The second part deals with clinical and related issues and includes sections on epidemiology, clinical manifestations, clinical neurophysiology, neuroimaging, clinical laboratory findings, treatment, ethical and legal considerations, and finally the book concludes with a brief overview and an assessment of future directions. A great deal of the information is derived from experimental research, but the book succeeds in presenting these data within a clinical context and bridges the gap between the molecular biologist and clinician; it will be a particularly useful reference monograph for the latter.

On the whole, the book avoids excessive speculation and presents the data in an unbiased way, although all current theories are speculative and the rapidly accumulating molecular biological data results in increasingly complex theories that have now extended beyond those relevant to any previously described micro-organism, often without substantiating the data.

The book is produced on matt paper and contains relevant illustrations; in general the illustrations have not reproduced well. Each chapter is followed by a list of references. Like many American books it relies heavily on abbreviations which can be frustrating when reading the less familiar chapters.

This book is a useful summary of this fascinating group of diseases and it succeeds in its aim in presenting the results of basic research in a clinicopathological perspective. Research in this field is moving fast and the story has moved forwards a little since the book was published, but this is nevertheless a very readable summary of the position up to 1991 and I recommend it to all with an interest in this group of diseases.

WR TIMPERLEY

**Pathobiology of Soft Tissue Tumours.** Ed CDM Fletcher, PH McKee. Current Problems in Tumour Pathology. (Pp 368; 155 illustrations; £60.) Churchill Livingstone. 1990. ISBN 0-443-03790-6.

The book makes light reading of a complex and difficult area of pathology and this is largely to the credit of the editors who have put together such distinguished contributors to add yet another to the already successful series on *Current Problems in Tumour Pathology*. It complements the classic textbook on soft tissue tumours by Enzinger and Weiss and should rightly take its place alongside it on the shelves.

The layout of the book, together with good black and white photomicrographs, make information readily accessible and coherent. The references are up to date, which is unusual and therefore a great tribute to the

authorship and publishers. The 16 chapters have all been written to a high standard, some better than others but the authors have all done the best of what was undoubtedly a difficult task.

Drs Skalli and Gabbiani's chapter 5 on the biology of the myofibroblast made interesting reading, particularly because I have not seen it so extensively discussed elsewhere. Chapters 12, 13, and 14 on progress in benign, pseudosarcomatous and borderline and malignant soft tissue tumours, pointed out several new entities, the difficulties in their diagnosis, and with good illustrations, clues to their recognition. Chapter 15 on current trends in the treatment of soft tissue tumours helped to concentrate my mind on the outcome or the consequences of misdiagnosis.

Drs Bayley and Lucas deserve mention for their extensive analysis of the enigmatic disease Kaposi's sarcoma which enjoys prominence in the book; their conclusion, however, appears rather hasty. Several counterarguments can be put across in support of the currently held view that Kaposi's sarcoma is a malignant disease. I have no doubt that the argument will continue but to attempt to change the name to Kaposi's disease is premature.

Another area of contention is the continued broadening of the entity epithelioid haemangioma to include angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia (ALHE). That ALHE is a vascular tumour is only a supposition. The combination of eosinophils, lymphocytes, and endothelial proliferation, irrespective of morphology, can all be explained on the basis of immune dysfunction. The role of dermal dendritic cells as antigen presenting cells and various subgroups of lymphokines including the eosinophil chemotactic factor IL5 will need to be properly investigated. There have been fewer names that aptly describe an entity better than ALHE. As to the association with Kimura's disease there are still unanswered questions and I will not close the door just yet; it took a very long time to establish the link between endomyocardial fibrosis and Loeffler's endocarditis.

Pathologists, surgeons, and oncologists will all benefit enormously from reading this book. For me it provided essential knowledge for the better understanding of the difficult subject of soft tissue tumours. It is highly recommended.

AB AKOSA

**The Customer Oriented Laboratory.** WO Umiker. (Pp 190; £44.00.) Published by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. 1991. ISBN 0-89189-3410-5.

There could hardly be a more appropriate time for such a title to appear on the United Kingdom book market. As NHS pathology departments struggle to cope with the dual culture shock of audit and cost effectiveness, many laboratories are indeed having to become more "customer oriented". So does this book help? The answer is probably yes. Provided the distinctly transatlantic style can be enjoyed, accommodated, or ignored, what Dr Umiker has to offer is a lot of sound advice on all aspects of pathology management. And in an amusing and readable way. I love the little lists—such as "invalid excuses for not getting feedback" or "great phrases to use

when dealing with complaints". Different types of difficult customers are neatly categorised and we can all recognise the steamroller (Dr Furious, a surgeon).

Like many management texts, what is contained is mostly applied common sense, but in this case distilled in such a way that is though provoking. Readers will learn how to implement change, how to evaluate the service, how to recruit, train, and retain personnel, how to use EPGs (employee participating groups), and how to approach budgeting and cost containment. And, yes, of course, how to sell the service.

Despite the contents being pitched at the North American market, there is a basic international timelessness about service organisation and personnel management, and the quote from Henry Ford on page one sets the scene: "It's not the employer who pays wages. He only handles the money. It's the customer who pays the wages".

So, buy the book and you may be on the road to the Japanese system of *Kaizen*; the "theory of continuous improvement". Imagine the effect of that on your anticoagulant clinic.

JS LILLEYMAN

**Transplantation Pathology—Hepatic Morphogenesis.** Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology. Vol 14. Ed CR Abramowsky. J Bernstein, H Rosenberg. (Pp 220; 89 figs; £120.) S Karger. 1991. ISBN 3-8055-5156-8.

This volume includes a rather curious mixture of subjects. About half the book comprises three chapters devoted to the biliary tree and liver in childhood and to the developmental pathology of the bile ducts. About another quarter consists of two chapters in which the basic pathology and immunology of transplantation are reviewed. The remaining two chapters are devoted to cardiac transplantation in children and to pancreatic transplantation for the treatment of diabetes. While these chapters provide a useful summary of some of the problems in these areas, much of the information is available elsewhere, and the chapter on cardiac transplantation does not include the standardised nomenclature proposed by the heart rejection study group of the International Society for Heart Transplantation.

The quality of production is excellent. The print is clear with few typographical errors and in general the photomicrographs are good. This volume will be of some interest to paediatric pathologists, but its high price and unusual juxtaposition of subjects suggest that, while it may be a suitable volume to have in the hospital library, few pathology departments will feel justified in buying it.

A KENNEDY

**Practical Histochemistry.** Chayen J, Bitensky L. (Pp 321; price £45.) John Wiley & Sons. 1991. ISBN 0-47192-93-1.

There are several text books on practical histochemistry; some have defined their audience, while others, including this second

edition, are not sure who is the target. Most of these "practical" books are reasonably strong on the theory and give, for the most part, sound methods. However, although they are entitled "practical", there is rarely any useful comment on application. This second edition is no exception.

On reading through the book I had a giggling sense of *déjà vu*, and when I compared the current text with that of the first 1973 edition, all was made clear. There is very little change, apart from a paragraph here and there, and the bulk of the text and diagrams is identical with the 1973 edition. This accounts for the general feeling that it seems about 20 years out of date, and it is in reality almost a first edition reprinted rather than a second edition.

It is unlikely to be found on many laboratory bookshelves.

BD LAKE

**Introduction to Flow Cytometry.** JV Watson. (Pp 443; £50.) Cambridge University Press. 1991. ISBN 0521-38061 8.

This text is written by one of the most reputable of British flow cytometrists. Dr Watson probably has more hours of experience behind him building and adjusting flow cytometers than nearly anyone else in the country. This text sets out to "describe the fundamental principles behind flow cytometry, the basic methods involved, and the results that can be obtained from this important technique". The book does this in 385 pages with 142 pages of references. Roughly half of the book is concerned with the theories of fluid flow, light and optics, electronics, computing and instrument performance, with the second half dealing with nucleic acid analysis, chromosomes, and dynamic cellular applications. The last 40 pages deal with potential applications in oncology.

The style is informal throughout with many line illustrations of flow cytometric data. In many situations the author draws on his own personal experience to illustrate applications.

The technical side of the book deserves little criticism and is a valuable addition to the literature. The methods sections on nucleic acid analysis and chromosomes are also valuable but the book falls down by its omission of a substantial section on immunology. Flow cytometry is an essential part of immunology and most machines are sited in these laboratories.

A further failing was to see only 40 pages on applications. A book written by a senior author in the field can be very valuable in drawing together many workers' papers and identifying common themes. A further chapter on commercial flow cytometers would also have been of interest to people new to the field who may be interested in purchasing instruments.

Does this book succeed in doing what it set out to do? It successfully describes the principles of flow cytometry in great detail and discusses the methods and types of results that can be obtained. This makes the book a useful reference source for the fundamental principles, but is it a necessary purchase for "anyone wishing to start using or already using this technique"? In the rush of new