

# JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

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The style always brings a welcome relief to any beginner in dermatopathology and this continues to be the strength of the book. I would recommend it to any budding dermatopathologist. For that matter any medical library that does not have this book should immediately seek to rectify the anomaly.

I will treasure my review copy.

AB AKOSA

#### **Molecular Mechanisms and Their Clinical Application in Malignancies.**

Bristol-Myers Squibb Cancer Symposia. Vol 12. Ed DE Bergsagel, TW Mak. (Pp 270; £49.95.) Academic Press Inc. 1991. ISBN 0-12-091075-6.

This is a volume of papers given at the twelfth Bristol Myers Squibb Cancer Symposium in Toronto in September, 1989. The book is well produced, laid out, and illustrated, and is quite reasonably priced (but why, with electronic data processing and modern printing technology, does it still take two years to publish the proceedings of a conference?). In addition to results from groups looking at molecular biological aspects of the phakomatoses, lung and breast cancers, acute myeloid leukaemia, retinoblastoma and T cell receptor genes, and the genetics of colorectal cancer, more general work on oncogenes and regulation of transcription is reported. Some papers, such as those on structural design in antitumour compounds and the genetic construction of diphtheria toxin-related polypeptide hormone fusion proteins, are of rather specialised interest, but in a number of the articles short reviews of various topics provide useful overviews of what is becoming known of the molecular bases of some tumours, and show the potential of this discipline for the understanding of cancer. However, while applied molecular biology will obviously become a matter of increasing relevance to doctors, the experimental foundations reported here are, in spite of the title, still principally the concern of the scientist and the pathologists working in these specific areas.

C FISHER

**Laboratory Medicine. Test Selection and Interpretation.** Ed JH Howanitz, PJ Howanitz. (Pp 896; 108 illustrations £49.) Churchill Livingstone. 1991. ISBN 0 443 08576 5

This American text, with 45 contributors, is oriented towards the clinician's viewpoint of laboratory medicine. In the editors' words "For easy access to information, the book is organized around the clinician's order, namely the specific tests, rather than by disease entity". This approach proves to be confusing and access to information is not easy. The 31 chapters are arranged under the four headings, clinical chemistry, haematology, microbiology/immunology, and blood bank. If you choose clinical chemistry, the 14 chapters range from "pulmonary and cardiac function" through "body fluids" to "pregnancy and genetics". Choose microbiology/immunology, and the first chapter on

"blood and bone marrow" deals in turn with blood culture, blood film examination for malaria, and bone marrow culture (for organisms).

A trainee clinician working on a ward may find this test-orientated approach a useful one as the book provides a reference source of an order of magnitude greater than even the most ambitious laboratory users' handbook. There are many cartoon illustrations and lists of tests. For pathologists, its main limitations are the lack of technical depth, the limited bibliography, and the inevitable problem of cross referencing an index for a laboratory test repertoire that is common to so many clinical disorders.

J STUART

**Colour Aids—General Pathology.** IAR More, IL Brown. (Pp 136; soft cover £7.95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1991. ISBN 0-443-04057-5.

This volume in the *Colour Aids* series aims to help undergraduate and postgraduate medical students and students of nursing or related specialties to learn general pathology. It is not intended to stand alone but to augment existing text books or help with revision, and covers all the main topics regarded as "general" pathology. The format is attractive but I am afraid the aims will not be attained. The treatment is much too superficial for postgraduate students in medicine or surgery. Undergraduate students will suffer because, too often, accuracy is sacrificed in the interest of simplification. Paramedical students will find the diagrams incomprehensible, as I did in many cases, as no explanation is given in the text.

The illustrations are of variable quality; often they are very good but their choice leaves much to be desired. Fabry's disease, for example, is illustrated without reference in the text and, as in other cases, without any explanatory legend.

I cannot recommend this book.

DJ POLLOCK

**Dermato-Immunohistochemie. Atlas und Handbuch Klinik und Praxis.** H Ueki, H Yaoita. (Pp 216; 302 illustrations; DM 248.) Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH Stuttgart. 1991. ISBN 3-8047-1169-9

This book in German is an expanded version of a colour atlas published by Drs Ueki and Yaoita in English in 1989. The German version is much more comprehensive. After a technical introduction there are sections on the cells of the epidermis and dermis, on the ground substance, and thereafter the groups of dermatological diseases for which immunohistology is or may be of value are illustrated. These include bullous disorders, connective tissue disorders, vasculitides, psoriasis, amyloid, porphyria, infectious diseases and tumours. The accompanying colour illustrations are excellent. The book is recommended for reference for all who have even a rudimentary knowledge of German.

RONA M MacKIE

**Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology.** 1991. Ed KM Brinkhous, FG Dalldorf, RD Langdell, WW McLendon. (Pp 369; £42.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1991. ISBN 0-8151-1246-7.

This is the 44th annual volume of the *Year Book of Pathology* series. It features the usual format of abstracts of general pathology, systemic pathology and clinical pathology, and a list of review articles. It is complemented by a section on quality control and laboratory management. As is usual in the series, the book makes interesting reading, although the subject matter is inevitably disparate which makes it uncertain how much can be learnt from the occasional casual perusal, which is probably all one can expect of most readers of the book. Nevertheless, perusal of my specialty interest confirms that the book does review important papers of interest and that much can be learnt from a look at specific specialty sections. I was disappointed to see a review of a paper on Ki-67 assessment in colorectal cancer, this paper making no reference to a previous and similar study by yours truly published in a well known pathology journal some 30 months previously!

This year book provided an opportunity to test the theory that North Americans tend to favour North American journals and articles. There is a preference for review of North American journals (73%; Ulrich's directory indicates that 41% of worldwide medical journals are American). However, only 67% of the total articles in the book are of North American origin. This would suggest that there has also been liberal review of non-American journals and articles to produce a reasonably well balanced representation of world pathology. The year book is not expensive; indeed the price has fallen by a couple of pounds since 1989. I think this is a useful reference source and I recommend it.

NA SHEPHERD

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## NOTICE

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