

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

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chapter covering the approach to lymph node diagnosis rather than the usual section on normal lymph node histology. Instead, this is covered in a slightly cumbersome chapter inappropriately entitled "Reactive lymph node hyperplasia" which describes everything that is not a neoplasm including such distinctly non-hyperplastic conditions as lymph node infarction and fatty infiltration. Thereafter, chapters on lymphomas, non-Hodgkin's and Hodgkin's, follow with a short final chapter on miscellaneous conditions.

The traditionalist need not fear that all has been sacrificed to science. There are abundant illustrations, mostly of a high standard, but a few are of poor quality and there is a curious tendency towards a small format, sometimes hardly larger than a postage stamp, which seems unnecessary. The four pages of colour plates bound into the centre of the book are mouthwateringly excellent—an oasis in a black and white desert! More colour (why not all colour?) in the next edition, please.

There is little to quibble with in terms of the content and much to praise. The author has struggled hard with the vexed question of classification of the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas and, courageously, for an American, has eschewed, the "working formation" in favour of the Lukes-Collins classification which European readers will be able to follow easily because of its conceptual similarity to the Kiel classification. Again, courageously, the author, while apologising for his heresy, buries the myth that Reed-Sternberg cells characterise nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin's disease. Details of immunohistochemical and molecular characteristics of the various lymphomas are described with appropriate attention to detail, and never unnecessarily smother information on the histology. A little more emphasis on paraffin wax section immunohistology and less on frozen sections might be more appropriate for a book of this kind, and it is a pity that the author has not yet joined the slowly growing band of pathologists who are able to demonstrate immunoglobulins in paraffin wax sections satisfactorily.

The style of this book is engagingly direct, even chatty, but sometimes it is over the top with jargon and more suitable to a journal article than a textbook. What would the proverbial Martian pathologist make of this section on page 189? "All ML, FCC are of B cell origin and will express pan-B cell antigens such as CD19 and CD20. Most SC and LC cases, many SNC cases, but only a minority of LNC cases (<20% of diffuse large cell lymphomas of B cell origin) will be CD10 positive (chapter 4, table 1) (16, 59, 69, 72, 76)." Fewer abbreviations would help.

This is a book by an expert for those who are themselves expert, or aspire to be expert haematopathologists. General pathologists, however, will benefit from including it in their personal library, if only as an aid to interpreting consultation reports and journal articles; the modest price of the book is distinctly in its favour given the amount of useful information that it contains. Dr Swerdlow, as the single author, is to be congratulated on this considerable achievement.

PG ISAACSON

Bronchoalveolar Lavage. Cytology and Clinical Applications. MW Stanley, MJ Henry-Stanley, C Iber. (Pp 240; £72.) Igaku-Shoin. 1991. ISBN 0-89640-189-8.

My overall impression of this book was that the authors had achieved what they set out to do and provided a comprehensive guide to the interpretation and clinical importance of the cytological changes in bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL). It is aimed at cytopathologists, cytotechnicians, and clinicians with an interest in pulmonary medicine. Although the authors admittedly do not cover the full range of morphological problems in cytodagnosis of BAL, I learnt an enormous amount about the potential value as well as the limitations of this technique. As with many diagnostic techniques, specimen collection, preparation and interpretation within the clinical context are essential for the results not to be over or under used.

One criticism is that the text is unnecessarily long, largely because of duplication of information. The authors excuse this on the basis of it being a multi-author text, and that duplication may be needed for certain sections to be read on their own. However, my opinion was that this had been overdone, and made it difficult retrospectively to find items of interest. Apart from the introduction, written by a clinician, the rest was written by a cytopathologist and cytotechnician working in the same department, alleviating any real need for duplication.

Differential cell counts in diffuse interstitial lung disease should only be interpreted with accurate information about the methods of specimen collection and the underlying diagnosis: the information in this book should encourage clinicians to resist the temptation to use BAL instead of a histological diagnosis, except in certain circumstances, including the diagnosis and exclusion of infections.

Not surprisingly, the most useful chapters were those devoted to areas where BAL is of the most use in practice. Pulmonary infections in the immunocompromised host are the most obvious example. Of equal value were the sections on metastatic carcinoma and lympho-reticular malignancies. In these clinical situations invasive biopsy is contra-indicated and BAL provides a better method of sampling the alveolar parenchyma than TBB or brushings.

The technical sections were well written and referenced and helped to make this a book which would be a useful addition to the library of any cytopathology department.

AMANDA HERBERT

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 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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International Skeletal Society

19th Annual Refresher Course

26-29 August 1992, Stockholm

The course should be of interest to radiologists, pathologists and clinicians. Brochures with further details can be obtained from Mary Catto, Pathology Department, Western Infirmary, Glasgow G11 6NT. Tel 041-339 8822 ext 4062 or Fax 041-337 2494.

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