Tumors of the Epidermis. Practical Dermatopathology Series. K Hashimoto, A H Mehregan. (Pp 270; £45.) Butterworth Scientific Ltd. 1991. ISBN 0-409-90163-6

This monograph provides a comprehensive account of those lesions which form a large component of the workload in dermatopathological practice. Such is the familiarity of the histopathological features of actinic keratoses, basal cell carcinomas, and the like that one tends to become rather contemptuous as yet another example lands on the microscope stage. To any pathologist who has reached this distressing moment in his or her career I heartily recommend a therapeutic browse through this book.

Each of the common epidermal tumours is dissected in detail and a host of subtypes and variants is described. This is therefore perhaps a text for "splitters" rather than "lumpers", but whether or not you feel a need to diagnose the intraepidermal pilar tumour of Ito there will be something here for you.

Both the clinical photographs and the photomicrographs are mostly of very good quality, and there are a great many, unfortunately this leads to some overcrowding and inevitably loss of proximity between photographs and corresponding text. Clinical features, aetiology, and even historical review, where relevant, are presented. Ultrastructure and immunocytochemical findings are clearly discussed. I would not, however, say that this is the sort of book that one refers to while perusing a case but rather is a refreshing and even enjoyable "good read". Nevertheless, there are now some subtle histological nuances for which I'm scanning each and every epidermal tumour I come across. The trainee pathologist would do well to get hold of a copy and perhaps hold that contempt in check for a little longer.

S HUMPHREYS

Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases and other Non-neoplastic Disorders. Guides to Clinical Aspiration Biopsy. J F Silverman. (Pp 358; £75.) Williams & Wilkins Ltd. 1991. ISBN 0-89640-207-X

Many books on cytopathology have been written purely on the diagnoses of malignant disease. Infection and inflammatory diseases have been neglected.

At last there is the book that many cytopathologists have been waiting for. This is not only a comprehensive and detailed book but includes an extremely useful chapter on technique and preparation of the material, the usefulness of different stains, particularly staining in rapid diagnosis. There is no doubt that most clinicians are beginning to request rapid diagnoses in outpatients and it is important that cytopathologists should be capable of giving this service.

The usefulness of some of the material from FNAs being sent to microbiology if infection is suspected, as suggested in both chapters 2 and 3, cannot be overemphasised and is frequently overlooked by even the most experienced cytopathologists.

Chapter 4 gives a list of organisms which can be identified in FNAs. This is a highly effective initial step in evaluation of many suspected infectious disease processes and it is essential, as this chapter suggests, that there should be good cooperation between the cytology and microbiology departments. The chapter on cytomorphologic patterns of inflammatory aspirates will guide the novice

and more experienced cytopathologists around many pitfalls.

Probably the most difficult of all FNAs to interpret are lymph nodes. The chapter on this is particularly helpful. It is important to know of the many problems in interpretation. Perhaps the biliary tract should have been included in the chapter on abdomen and peritoneum. The final chapter, which includes precautions in patients who are HIV positive, is also very helpful.

This is a useful book. However, colour photography really is essential in a book on cytopathology and it is extremely disappointing that such excellent text should be let down by black and white photographs.

M CURLING

NOTICES

Postgraduate Course

"Current Concepts in Surgical Pathology"

16-20 November 1992

The Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School will present a postgraduate course in surgical pathology under the direction of Drs Nancy L Harris, Robert H Young, and Eugene J Mark.

This course is designed for pathologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide an in-depth review of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on morphologic features, newly recognized entities, and new techniques, presented by the faculty of the Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital. Instruction will be primarily by lecture, but will also include discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The fee for the course is \$675.00 (residents and fellows \$475.00).

For further information contact: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115 (Telephone: (617) 432-1525).

WASP

XVII World Congress of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology (Laboratory Medicine)

5-9 October 1993
Acapulco, Mexico

Programme:

- ★ Lectures
- ★ Round tables
- ★ Symposium
- ★ Workshops Pre-Congress
- ★ Proffered papers
- ★ Posters
- ★ Technical exhibits

Information from:

AV. Mexico 2341 C.P. 44650, Fax: (52) 3-615-3091, Guadalajara, Jal, Mexico.

Melanoma '93

A joint meeting of the Royal College of Pathologists and the Melanoma Study Group, sponsored by the South East Thames Regional Health Authority Quality Initiative.

6 and 7 May 1993,
Brighton Conference Centre

This two day consensus conference will address problems in the biopsy diagnosis of melanocytic disorders. As well as formal presentations by Bernard Ackerman (New York) and David Elder (Philadelphia), the programme will include presentations and discussions of proffered cases and papers. Hotel accommodation and car parking will be available at discount rates. The conference takes place during the Brighton International Festival. A spouse programme will be available.

Further details are available from Dr N Kirkham, Dept. of Histopathology, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton BN2 5BE, UK. Fax: 0273-600182.

Second International Symposium and Workshop on Verocytotoxin (Shiga-like toxin) producing *Escherichia coli* infections

Bergamo, Italy
27-30 June 1994

Further information:
Meeting Secretariat, Microbiology Institute, Ospedali Riuniti, 1 Largo Barozzi, 24100 Bergamo, Italy.
Tel: 0039-35-269505, 0039-35-255358.

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 £34 for those resident in the United Kingdom and £65 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, 221 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. (0273) 561188.