

That is covered by a separate book also published by Arnold, Russell, and Rubinstein, which reached its fifth edition in 1989; that was written by the late Rubinstein.

When I bought the reissue of the first edition early in my career, it was a *sine qua non*. There were then a few volumes on neuropathology in Germany and, in the late sixties and seventies, there appeared only once three volumes of Minckler—very good books. Nowadays, there are many books that include neuropathological topics and a few others that are devoted solely to neuropathology. *Greenfield's Neuropathology* remains the standard to turn to first for neuropathologists and for all others concerned with the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles. Those interested in a particular topic must not neglect other up to date sources that may deal with it in greater detail: papers, chapters and books, not always referred to or found here. I wonder what a young reader could make of neuropathology without a grounding in the so-called neurosciences and in neuroanatomy.

There is the small matter of considerable cost. I hope that this book will be available to those interested in departmental and other libraries, but I do not think that all individuals, for example, all young general pathologists will need to buy it—in many cases because they would not be able to afford to—good as it is.

I JANOTA

**Quantitative Cyto- and Histoprogno-  
sis in Breast Cancer.** PJ Van Diest, JPA Baak. (Pp 212; \$131.50.) Elsevier. 1992. ISBN 0-444-89374-1

This book is an updated version of Dr Paul van Diest's PhD thesis *Quantitative Cyto- and Histoprogno-  
sis in breast cancer* which describes the use of morphometry, stereology, flow cytometry, digital image processing, syntactic analysis and artificial intelligence.

The introduction gives a brief but comprehensive overview of the currently available prognostic factors in breast cancer. Many methods of quantifying these factors are described and include basic morphometry, DNA flow cytometry, and the measurement of immunohistochemical techniques for tumour markers and oncoproteins. This chapter also introduces the concept of mitotic activity index and the multivariate prognostic index which form the basis of the book.

A chapter on methodology includes a description of some of the basic techniques that are often overlooked. The remainder of the book centres largely on applications. These are well described and well illustrated with numerous tables of data and survival curves. The nature of the work means that there is some repetition in the text and in the references and as a result the book is not particularly easy to read.

It is not a priority first buy for a departmental library. However, for anyone having a specific interest in the quantitation of breast cancer, the effort of reading it will provide much information and is worth purchasing if you can afford more than £70.

The book will be most useful for scientists starting research into quantitative microscopy of breast cancer for it is a comprehensive review and very well referenced.

C SOWTER

**Pathological Basis of the Connective Tissue Diseases.** DL Gardner. (Pp 1050; £145.) Edward Arnold. 1992. ISBN 0-713-14548-X

This well produced book is a sequel to Professor Gardner's original, smaller, very useful book. After using it for about a month it is clear that Professor Gardner and his associate are to be congratulated on producing the new Bible of connective tissue disease (excluding neoplasms). It is useful at consultant level for references which are up-to-date and extensive and for junior staff working for their membership exams. I also think it will be valuable to those needing a pathological basis for MRCP.

In the first part are the principles of the biology of cells, tissues, and organs concerned with connective tissue diseases. The second part concerns the mechanism of connective tissue disease, and the third part, which is probably the most useful to practising pathologists, refers to the pathology of biopsies and specimens. It is nearly unfaultable. Although the pictures are all black and white, for most pathologists this will not be a draw-back. X-rays, tables, histopathology, microscopy and macroscopy pictures are excellent. The text is written by those who understand clearly the problems presented daily in reporting. I would compare this book to the similar excellent book on soft tissue tumours by Enzinger and Weiss. I find I use Gardner's book in parallel with this latter book. I have only two negative comments: cartilaginous according to three dictionaries is spelt cartilaginous (ie, not containing an e) and the book is no light-weight to carry.

There are few books these days which are as useful as often as this one, and I would strongly recommend it.

CM STARKIE

**Problem Solving in Immuno-  
haematology.** 4th edn. Ed IA Shulman. (Pp 191; \$34.00.) Raven Press. 1992. ISBN 0-89189-321-0

This excellent short book, now in its fourth edition, presents a wide range of immuno-haematological problems in an entertaining self-assessment format. It has nine chapters covering the processing of donor blood, compatibility testing, antibody identification, blood component inventories, investigation of transfusion reactions, selection of blood for neonatal transfusion, Rh immune globulin, antenatal testing and diagnosis of haemolytic disease of the newborn, and plasma transfusions. I would have liked the problems associated with autoantibodies and autoimmune haemolytic anaemia to have been considered in greater detail in a tenth chapter. However, each section provides a surprising amount of information; a sort introduction is followed by a series of exercises aimed at covering the most recent advances and important problems in that area. After attempting an exercise, the reader can turn to the author's detailed answer and discussion. The book is intended to give clinical and laboratory haematologists a better understanding of the kinds of problems encountered in transfusion medicine and how they may be solved. It succeeds admirably at a very reasonable price and is fun to use; I strongly recommend it.

RJ SOKOL

## Notices

### Diagnostic Medical Mycology

A one week lecture and practical course on the laboratory diagnosis of fungal infections is to be held in Leeds, commencing 19 April 1993. This established course is intended for MLSOs and medical graduates working in diagnostic laboratories and is organised by the British Society for Mycopathology.

Course fee (excluding accommodation) £275 + VAT.

Further details may be obtained from Dr E G V Evans, PHLS Mycology Reference Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

### Nottingham National Breast Screening Training Centre

#### Fine needle aspiration cytology of the breast

University Hospital, Nottingham, 29 and 30 March 1993

This is a course in diagnostic cytology suitable for consultants, senior registrars, and registrars in pathology and MLSOs. The programme is designed as (i) a comprehensive course for those new to breast cytopathology; and (ii) an update course dealing with new advances and problems in cytology.

This latter section is part of the comprehensive course, but is also available as a one day option for those with experience in breast cytology who require an update style course.

Course fees on application. Residential or non-residential options available.

For registration forms and further information, please contact: Mrs B Price, Training Co-ordinator, Nottingham National Breast Screening Training Centre, City Hospital, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB. Telephone (0602) 691689. Fax (0602) 627707.

### 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.