

According to its preface, this book was assembled for clinicians who are students of endometriosis, with the aim of stimulating new clinical and basic research in this field. Written by a group of eminent gynaecologists with not a pathologist among them, it is divided into 17 chapters and lavishly illustrated throughout with good quality photographs. The first few chapters review the early published findings and emphasise the varied macroscopic appearance of endometriotic lesions which the author attempts to put in the context of disease progression. Later chapters discuss endometriosis by site. The chapter on microscopic endometriosis is unaccountably illustrated by scanning electron micrographs. The authors' tenuous grasp of pathology is further exemplified by the assertion that peritoneal haemangiomas "have an epithelial lining with no evidence of endometrial glands or stroma".

Overall, I found this book slight and uninformative. Totally lacking in any new insights, it is unlikely to be of any interest to serious students of endometriosis. Furthermore, it is pervaded by a sense of sanctimonious piety expressed in prolix, unclear, and frequently ungrammatical prose. I would not recommend it.

SM ISMAIL

Paediatric Neoplasia. S Variend. **Current Histopathology.** Vol 22. (Pp 124; £95.) Kluwer Academic Publishers Group. 1993. ISBN 0-7923-8900-X.

There is much useful information in this slim volume, and whilst the quality of some of the illustrations might be improved, the point they make is generally easily discerned. Because of its brevity and portability, it would make a useful introduction to paediatric tumours. As a bench manual for the experienced histopathologist seeking help with the difficult case, however, its value is more questionable. There is a tendency for modern atlases to move away from the mere collection of illustrations of "typical examples" to manuals where both the text and the pictures examine points of differential diagnosis and practical problem solving. In this volume differential diagnosis tends to be lists rather than explanations as to how differentiation might be achieved. We are told, for example, that congenital mesoblastic nephroma may resemble clear cell sarcoma, and that failure to distinguish them may be disastrous, but we are not told how this might be done. The section on lymphomas is not well illustrated and gives little indication of how the simple classification used relates to those more generally used in adult pathology.

More help in the interpretation of small biopsy specimens, and particularly instruction on the changes that affect the histology of paediatric tumours following chemotherapy would be valuable, because these specimens probably form the majority of those seen in current practise.

Despite these criticisms, I am sure the book will find a place in training departments, and for the instruction of clinicians dealing with childhood tumours.

RA RISDON

Microbiology—Colour Guide. TJ Inglis and AP West. (Pp 137; 194 illustrations; £7.95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1993. ISBN

0-443-03972-0.

This small paperback successfully combines good quality photographs with succinct text to produce a handy teaching and revision aid. Although aimed at medical students and postgraduates preparing for examinations, it would be equally valuable to other students of medical microbiology.

The book starts with what many in the laboratory would agree is the most important aspect for clinicians to understand—the need for an appropriate specimen and a request form containing relevant information. It then summarises what happens when "MC&S" is requested. After the basic methods have been described there is a systematic review of specimens needed, the laboratory investigation, and the possible findings in the major clinical infection groups.

Although the emphasis is on bacteriology, the basic elements of infection control, virology, parasitology and mycology are covered. Text is clear, short, and often in note form. The captions generally aid the interpretation of the photographs, although those for the illustrations of blood stained cerebrospinal fluid seem to have been transposed.

The 170 photographs are of a very high standard, and although some are perhaps a little too small, they demonstrate clearly what the authors wish to show.

The combination of the quality of the photographs, the carefully written text, and the low price make this book very good value. It will not only prove useful to those taking examinations but could be used in other teaching situations.

DN PETTS

Immunofluorescence. Antigen Detection Techniques in Diagnostic Microbiology. Ed EO Caul. (Pp 196; soft cover, £19.95.) Cambridge University Press. 1993. ISBN 0-521-44897-2.

This monograph provides a valuable addition to the series produced by the Public Health Laboratory Service and written by experts in the field from laboratories throughout the country. The introductory chapters cover the principles of immunofluorescence microscopy and production of monoclonal antibodies. An excellent chapter on the techniques and practical aspects of obtaining good respiratory specimens from patients follows.

The remainder of the book is devoted to diagnosis covering respiratory viruses and organisms, such as CMV, *Pneumocystis carinii*, and fungal infections, which have become increasingly important in recent years with the advent of transplantation and treatment of immune deficient and immune suppressed patients. The inclusion of organisms of public health importance—*Listeria* and *Cryptococcus*—highlights some of the advances that have been made in diagnosis since the first PHLS monograph on immunofluorescence. Some chapters include useful epidemiological data from the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, but this is based on diagnoses made by all methodologies and does not indicate the impact that immunofluorescence has had on rapid diagnosis. The inclusion of comparative data on commercial kits and their source of supply is a valuable addition to many of the chapters.

The editor's caveat is particularly apt:

"There is no substitute for expertise and laboratory workers are encouraged to gain as much experience as possible before applying these rapid techniques". Reference to the monograph whilst at the bench will prove an invaluable guide to achieving this goal.

D CUBITT

Notices

Medical Screening: The Way Forward

Medical screening provides many opportunities for the prevention of disease and handicap. What can it offer and what are its limitations? Based on several case studies, *Medical Screening: The Way Forward*, organised jointly by the *BMJ* and *Journal of Medical Screening* is a one day conference to be held on 26 January 1994, at the QE2 Conference Centre, London, to examine the medical, scientific, ethical, social, psychological and economic aspects of screening.

For more information contact: Pru Walters, BMA Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Tel: 071-383 6605. Fax: 071-383 6400.

Dermatopathology Update UMDS St Thomas's Campus, London

Friday 21 January 1994

For further details and programme please contact: Dr P H McKee, Department of Histopathology, St Thomas's Hospital, London SE1 7EH. Tel: 071-929 9292 (ext. 2039). Fax: 071-401 3661.

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.