

## Book reviews

If you wish to order, or require further information regarding the titles reviewed here, please write or telephone the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Tel: 071 383 6244. Fax: 071 383 6662. Books are supplied post free in the UK and for British Forces Posted Overseas addresses. Overseas customers should add 15% for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank, or by credit card (MasterCard, VISA, or American Express) stating card number, expiry date, and your full name.

The price and availability are occasionally subject to revision by the Publishers.

**Pediatric Molecular Pathology: Quantitation and Applications. Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology.** Vol. 16. Ed AJ Garvin, TJ O'Leary, J Bernstein, HS Rosenberg. (Pp 170; £91.30.) Karger. 1992. ISBN 3-8055-5496-6.

The sixteenth in the series, *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology* is an odd combination of five articles which did not meet the expectations raised by the title or from the foreword. Two of the articles were very interesting; the first describes applications of immunohistochemistry and molecular biological techniques to the examination of developing organs in the embryo and fetus. The illustrations are stunning. The localisation of enzymes and growth factors in specific tissue and organ sites at different stages of development might be expected to attract morphologists. As a technique it has tremendous potential for improving the understanding of both normal and abnormal development. The second article considers the potential mechanism of spontaneous regression in neuroblastoma, a phenomenon which has intrigued clinicians and researchers for many years. Much of this work was done in the author's own laboratory and makes fascinating reading.

There is a very long description of peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumours which flies in the face of the stated aims of this volume in that most of it is spent discussing morphology. Very little space is given to molecular and cytogenetics which now constitute a very important part of the differential diagnostic process in current practice. The other two papers comprise a description of the application of PCR to fixed tissues and an account of quantitative methods in paediatric pathology. The latter gives a brief general overview of well established methods using grid points or linear intercepts. Drawbacks in using these techniques in organised structures are pointed out. Much of the article is devoted to morphometric analysis of the kidney and discusses its application to the better assessment of certain diseases. However, newer methods such as disector and fractionator analyses are mentioned by name only.

"Perspectives" is indexed in *Current Contents* and *Index Medicus*. If one of the titles catches your eye, borrow it.

JW KEELING

**Neoplasms with Follicular Differentiation.** AB Ackerman, PA de Viragh, N Chongchitnant. (Pp 703; £120.) Lea & Febiger. 1993. ISBN 0-8121 1542-2.

This is the second book in a series entitled *Ackerman's Histologic Diagnosis of Neoplastic Skin Diseases: A Method by Pattern Analysis*. The first volume dealt with eccrine sweat gland neoplasms; further volumes on sebaceous glands and apocrine glands are to follow, and possibly others. This book provides a level of detail in excess of the needs of most routine histopathologists and might even strain the enthusiasm of pathologists with a special interest in skin. The degree of restricted focus also leaves some conditions in limbo, and where lesions of mixed lineage fall depends on the authors' interpretation of what they consider to be the major component. The authors have taken a firm stand on some tumours that most pathologists would expect to appear here: keratoacanthoma is excluded because the authors feel that it does not show follicular, only infundibular, differentiation; tricholemmal carcinoma is not considered as the authors believe that it is either a clear cell basal cell carcinoma, or a squamous carcinoma.

A new group of tumours, pan-folliculomas, is introduced and classification is firmly based on morphology throughout. As in the eccrine book that preceded this, great emphasis is placed on scanning magnification appearances (or silhouettes) at the expense of cytology, even for determining malignancy.

There is some description of electron microscopy, and quite justifiably, little attention is paid to immunocytochemistry because, as far as I know, only the ratios of certain cytokeratins distinguish one part of the hair follicle from another.

In summary, the book is well produced, lavishly illustrated, and very helpful if you wish to classify hair follicle tumours.

DWK COTTON

**Diagnostic Pathology of Infectious Diseases.** GL Woods, Y Gutierrez. (Pp 656; £79.) Lea & Febiger. 1993. ISBN 0-8121-1604-6.

The author states that this book is intended as a reference for microbiologists and microbiology residents, and that the information can be used by infectious disease clinicians, medical students, and medical technologists. However as a histopathologist, I can guarantee that the book would also be a welcome addition to any histopathology library. Three of her four coauthors are histopathologists, while the fourth is an infectious disease clinician, and this balance is reflected in the text and numerous excellent illustrations.

After a short, concise introduction which broadly outlines host-pathogen relations and the pathogenesis of infectious disease,

the bulk of the book is divided into four sections: viruses; bacteria; fungi; and parasites. Each organism is dealt with under the headings of epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations and laboratory diagnosis (microbiological and histopathological).

The text is liberally illustrated with 74 colour plates of exceptionally high quality (although the caption for the Warthin-Starry stain in the section of liver from an infant with congenital syphilis is inadequate). I particularly liked the colour plate of a Warthin-Starry stain showing the bacilli of cat-scratch disease in a lymph node. There are about 80 aptly chosen histopathology black and white photomicrographs, together with about a dozen each of macroscopic photographs and electron micrographs, and a few cytology preparations. Additionally, there are numerous microbiological photographs, clinical pictures and diagrams of organisms.

It is disappointing that the chapter on hepatitis B virus and the delta agent contains no histopathology photomicrographs to illustrate the difference between acute viral hepatitis with and without piecemeal necrosis; chronic persistent and chronic active hepatitis; nor a discussion on the association between morphology and the degree of elimination of the virus. There are good up to date descriptions of bacillary angiomatosis and its causative agent *Rochalimaea henselae*, with a good photomicrograph and electron micrograph showing the organism. The concise discussion of prion related diseases contains all the information a final MRCP candidate is likely to need. The book is reasonably priced, and would be a useful addition to any teaching department histopathology library. It would also be a useful reference text for histopathologists dealing with material from immunocompromised patients, and patients who have contracted tropical disease as a result of travel abroad.

M MALONE

**Cancer Medicine.** 3rd edn. Ed JF Holland, E Frei, RC Bast, DW Kufe, DL Morton, RR Weichselbaum. (Pp 2501; £167.) Lea & Febiger. 1993. ISBN 0-81211-422-1.

This is a new edition of a book which had long been out of date. Eleven years have elapsed since the second edition of *Cancer Medicine*. During this time three new editions of its chief competitor, DeVita, Hellman, and Rosenberg's *Cancer—Principles and Practice of Oncology* have appeared. So how does the new Holland and Frei measure up?

A brief comparison with the second edition confirms the editors' claim that this book is entirely new. Four new editors have joined the team. A new typeface and layout make it more accessible for rapid reference or browsing, so that even those chapters which have been revised rather than completely rewritten have a more modern feel.

The strong point of the book is the introductory section, which comprises a thousand pages covering the basic sciences of cancer biology and therapeutics. These are generally well written and provide balanced reviews of their subjects; they should

remain valuable for several years, despite the march of time. In addition to the essentials of molecular biology, pathology, immunology, radiation biology, pharmacology, and toxicology, we find useful guides for the non-specialist on imaging and endoscopy, and chapters on epidemiology, screening and prevention, clinical trial design, supportive care, psychosocial oncology, ethics, and (USA) law.

The cancer site by site coverage is rather more variable. Many contributors have provided excellent reference chapters, with comprehensive reviews of published findings set into a historical perspective. A few have chosen to concentrate on issues of current interest, with the result that they will soon be dated. The quality of the written English and editing is also somewhat variable, and there are occasional long stretches of indigestible text where a table or figure would have been better.

This is a welcome addition to the library and comprises a good, readable textbook of cancer science. For individual site reference, this reviewer will continue to use deVita as the first port of call.

M SLEVIN

**Laboratory-Acquired Infections.** 3rd edn. CH Collins. (Pp 274; £35.) Butterworth-Heinemann. 1993. ISBN 0-7506-0642-8.

The hazards of working in microbiology laboratories, whether in hospitals or in research environs, must feature prominently in the training and education of *all* laboratory staff. In the accreditation handbook published by Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd., safety in the laboratory is covered by two standards. B.7: "All new staff are given a comprehensive orientation and induction programme, including health and safety"; and C11: "There are adequate facilities to ensure a safe and healthy working environment in accordance with current legislation." Such standards ensure that hospital laboratory staff are well versed in the potential for laboratory acquired infections. One wishes that this were true in research laboratories. Here, where the workers only deal with one agent at a time, is a different story—gonococcal conjunctivitis, salmonella gastroenteritis, to name but a few. Indeed, it has been estimated that more infections, caused by haemorrhagic and other rare viruses—Kyasanur Forest disease, Rift Valley fever—or rickettsia, have occurred in laboratories than in the wild.

With the risk of laboratory acquired infections ever present, one feels pleasure and satisfaction that Chris Collins' latest edition has arrived. With the awareness of hepatitis B and HIV, the resurgence of tuberculosis and the arrival of hepatitis C, this volume has arrived at an apposite time. It is written with the author's usual clarity, and the message is unambiguous.

This text is compulsory reading for everyone involved with micro-organisms in clinical medicine, but more especially in research. Unless I saw the book on the departmental shelf I would think long and hard before awarding accreditation. Laboratories beware.

RC SPENCER

**Aids to Pathology.** 4th edn. MF Dixon, P Quirke. (Pp 360; 56 figs.; paperback £10.95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1993. ISBN 0-443-04442-2.

In this updated edition the authors state in the preface that their aim is to present a compact revision guide to summarise and reinforce knowledge gained from teachers and weightier texts.

*Aids to Pathology* has retained the basic format of its predecessors, but greater emphasis is given to topics such as cytokines, immune responses, and genetics. With the addition of a new section on haematopathology, it is slightly larger than the previous edition.

The first chapter is a useful summary of the structure of cells and cell injury. Half the book is then devoted to basic pathological processes and half to systems pathology.

This book is extremely concise and can therefore be read quickly. It gives short definitions, with causes and effects in list form, avoiding long explanations and unnecessary detail. This is therefore a valuable book for medical students who want a summary of the pathology of a specific system or a particular process. The haematopathology section adequately summarises most aspects of haematology with the exception of disorders of haemostasis.

This new edition has been carefully prepared and is excellent value as a revision aid for medical students. As the authors say, it is a supplement and not a substitute for larger course books.

TP MILLARD

**Wintrobe's Clinical Hematology.** 9th Edn. GR Lee, TC Bithell, J Foerster, JW Athens, JN Lukens. Vols 1 and 2. (Pp 2323; £120.) Lea & Febiger. 1993. ISBN 0-81211-1885.

This is in the "large, mainly for reference" category, being comprehensive, but too exhaustive to be a basis for primary familiarisation with the field of clinical haematology. The editors achieve a sufficient uniformity of style to create a cohesive whole. This is backed up by a detailed index; the latter seems slightly fussy at first, but improves with use.

The synthesis of basic science and clinical practice is well achieved—for example, the accounts of the classification of acute leukaemias and the integration of the various grading systems for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Each account also provides a historical perspective which is not found often in smaller texts.

The text is illustrated with tables and line drawings. These add to the user friendly nature of the book, both for dipping into and for more prolonged consultation. The referencing is very comprehensive, allowing the pursuit of particular topics. The most recent references are from 1991, bearing witness to the lengthy gestation of a book of this size. None the less the text is generally up to date with recent laboratory and clinical developments.

In summary, the detail and depth of the accounts recommend this book for departmental reference. The cost and the size put it beyond individual use by trainees; for these readers there are less expensive accounts which would better reward the investment.

N KETLEY

## Notices

### ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRCPATH who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact The General Secretary, 221 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. Tel (0273) 561188. Fax (0273) 541227.

### Postgraduate Course in Gynaecological and Obstetric Pathology with Clinical Correlation

28 March–1 April 1994

This course is designed for pathologists and obstetrician-gynaecologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide an in-depth review of gynaecological and obstetric pathology with the emphasis on morphological diagnostic features and clinicopathological correlation, including management. Special attention will be paid to recent advances and newly recognised entities. Instruction will be primarily by lecture, but will also include case presentations and discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The course has Category 1 accreditation for approximately 35 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association and 35 cognates, formal learning, by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The fee for the course is \$750.00 (residents and fellows \$550.00). Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Boston, USA.

For further information contact: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115 USA. Telephone: (1) 617-432-1525.

### Symposium Mammographicum

13–15 July 1994

University of York, England

For further information, please contact: Conference Associates & Services Ltd, Congress House, 55 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RE. Telephone: 071 486 0531. Fax: 071 935 7559.

### 1st European Congress of Pediatric Surgery

4–6 May, 1995

Graz, Austria

Correspondence to: Professor Michael E Höllwarth, Department of Pediatric Surgery, Auenbruggerplatz 34, A-8036 LKH-Graz/Austria. Tel: (0) 316/385-3762. Fax: (0) 316/385-3775.