

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

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