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Book reviews

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Diagnostic Ultrastructure of Non-neoplastic Diseases. Ed JM Papadimitriou, DW Henderson, DV Spagnolo. (Pp 728; £200.00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1992. ISBN 0-443-03464-8

Electron microscopy is often regarded by those who are not well versed in the ultrastructural approach as the ultimate method of diagnosis on a tissue sample. It is therefore salutary to read in the introduction that useful ultrastructural information can be obtained in only 1-5% of samples received in a teaching hospital laboratory. The figure is even less if tumours are excluded. Why then do we need such a weighty (3.25 kg; 7.15 lb) tome? It is needed because it fills a gap between the general ultrastructure of the cell (Ghadyally) and the ultrastructural appearance of tumours (Henderson, Papadimitriou and Coleman), and is welcome for that reason.

The editors have gathered a variety of experts who have written concisely or extensively and have illustrated sparsely or profusely. As a consequence the coverage is uneven. For example, *in vitro* fertilisation has 40 references and 31 figures, while the eye has 426 references, eight tables, and only two figures, clearly inadequate for an atlas of ultrastructure. Other chapters are more even.

There are chapters on technique, scanning electron microscopy, general cell pathology, stromal pathology, viruses, infectious agents, parasites, tumour-like disorders, endomyocardial biopsies, respiratory disorders, digestive system (746 references; only 21 figures, liver, endocrine system, kidney, breast, CNS, PNS, muscle, bones, joints, lymphoid system (with light microscopy immunohistochemistry included in the text but not illustrated), and blood and bone marrow. I found the chapter on storage disorders disappointing because this is one area where electron microscopy is most helpful and uses many different tissues for diagnosis. The coverage could have been

more extensive. The chapter on skin is an invaluable source of reference.

The choice of sizes of illustrations is very variable and many pages are nearly half empty. The quality of the illustrations is generally good. References are up to 1990.

As a working atlas and text this book should be available to all those involved in diagnostic electron microscopy, especially if they read the introductory short chapter.

BD LAKE

Cases in Pathology. A Clinical Approach for Students. Nancy Standler and Bernard Klionsky. (Pp 242; £21.95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1991. ISBN 0-443-08759-8

This book consists of 37 clinicopathological case studies prepared for American medical students. Each is presented in "parallel text" form with an account of the patient in one column and discussion and clarification of important points in the parallel column. This section is then followed by some general text on the main disease in the patient and some references. The accounts of the cases include history (recent and previous), examination findings, and the results of investigations. Progress is recorded, sometimes to recovery but mainly to necropsy. Illustrations are mainly in colour and of histological sections, though there are some of macro-specimens and some radiology.

These mini CPCs are generally very good for their purpose, but it is easy to disagree with individual comments and interpretations. The aim of this collection is, however, not to give dogmatic teaching but to involve the students in clinicopathological thinking. Would I recommend this book to medical students in the UK? Yes, as additional reading late in the clinical course—or for post-graduates for professional examinations. The cases do require familiarity with clinical terms and clinical medicine. If it were used early in the clinical course there would need to be considerable input from a tutor (or much work with a medical dictionary). An additional problem for the European student is that haematological and chemical data are not given in SI units. It is the sort of book which ought to be very valuable but, with truncated pathology courses given early in the clinical years, it may find its niche in medicine rather pathology.

DR DAVIES

Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation. Ed AG Stansfeld, AJ d'Ardenne. (Pp 536; 553 illustrations; £95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1992. ISBN 0-443-04072-9.

Since publication of the first edition in 1985 this book has become one of the standard reference texts for lymph node pathology, certainly in the United Kingdom. Quite apart from the quality of the writing, a major reason for this is that many pathologists are attracted to the terminology and general orderliness of the Kiel classification of malignant lymphomas. Much has happened over the past seven years, however, not least the updating of the Kiel system to accommodate most of the more recently delineated types of T cell neoplasia. Other notable changes include the introduction of more antibodies applicable to paraffin wax sections and the increasing contribution of molecular genetics to the unravelling of

lymphoid neoplasia. The two new chapters dealing with these developments are therefore appropriate as is the recognition of new entities such as monocytoid, angiotropic, and T cell rich B cell tumours. The demise of histiocytic neoplasia as a major entity is acknowledged as is the reciprocal emergence of the concept of anaplastic lymphoma. Within the realm of Hodgkin's disease new concepts regarding the lymphocyte predominance subtype and the subcategorisation of nodular sclerosis are well documented. As before the illustrations are of a generally high quality, and the only minor quibble one might have about the excellent descriptions of disease entities is that even at the risk of duplication they might have included more immunocytochemical data. This apart, however, one can see no reason why this second edition should not continue to occupy its pre-eminent place as one of the most useful and least dispensable reference books both in diagnostic and research laboratories.

FD LEE

Renal Involvement in Systemic Vasculitis Contributions to Nephrology. Vol 94. Ed A Sessa, M Meroni, G Battini. (Pp 201; 86.10.) Karger. 1991. ISBN 3-8055-5422-2

This monograph is a compilation of the proceedings of the first seminar on renal involvement in systemic vasculitides held in Vimercate, Italy, in September 1990. It comprises a series of chapters of variable length and quality, somewhat haphazardly arranged. It would be far better if the editors had tried harder to establish some sort of continuity. The book largely documents our current lack of understanding of the basis of systemic vasculitis with renal involvement.

Several papers deal with observations on the antibodies found in the circulation which react with anti-neutrophilic cytoplasmic antigens (ANCA) confirming that c ANCA antibodies tend to be found in Wegener's granulomatosis and p ANCA antibodies in microscopic polyarteritis nodosa, but there is no clear message as to whether they are primary in the cause of the vasculitis or merely an epiphenomenon which is, perhaps, more likely.

The aim of the text is said to be to identify more effective therapeutic schedules for patients with various forms of vasculitis and, given the relative lack of scientific clarity in this area, it is fortunate that the empirical regimens used continue to improve the prognosis for patients with the vasculitic syndromes.

If you want to read what we don't know about vasculitis this is the book for you.

From the pathologist's point of view *Systemic Vasculitis* edited by Andrew and Jack Churg and published by Igaku Shoin, New York, 1992 is, in my opinion, much better value for money.

DR TURNER

Gynecological Tumors. Recent Progress in Diagnostic Pathology. Ed N Sasano. Current Topics in Pathology. (Pp 378; 168 figs; 28 tabs; DM 275.00.) Springer. 1992. ISBN 3-540-52955-1.

This book aims to highlight recent advances in the diagnosis of gynaecological pathology.

Particular emphasis is placed on progress in molecular biology and there are three chapters covering flow cytometry, oncogenes, and the role of human papillomavirus infection in cervical carcinoma. The other subjects discussed include endometrial carcinoma, CIN and microinvasive carcinoma of the cervix, cervical adenocarcinoma, ovarian endocrine tumours, germ cell tumours, trophoblastic disease, cytology in gynaecological disorders and neuroendocrine carcinoma of the uterus. Of the 12 authors, 11 practise in the USA or Japan with only one contributor from Europe. Inevitably this has resulted in an undue emphasis on pathology classifications and terminology not commonly accepted in British practice, such as the Bethesda system for cervical/vaginal cytology.

The book is well produced and illustrated with up to date references at the end of each chapter. However, I wonder whether the editor's stated aim that the readership should include both gynaecological oncologists and pathologists will be fulfilled. I would find it difficult to recommend this book to any surgical colleagues when there are other excellent alternatives such as that by Shepherd and Monaghan (1990). Equally, although pathologists would find the book an interesting read, I feel that it would be difficult to justify its purchase for a departmental library, most of the topics already having been well covered in other recent texts and monographs.

DR AJ ROBERTSON

Practical AIDS Pathology. EC Klatt. (Pp 152); \$35.50.) Raven Press. 1992. ISBN 0-89189-313-X

This book contains no illustrations apart from seven tables and a page comprising eight drawings intended to represent the microscopic appearance of opportunistic pathogens. The Preface tells us that it was "written to serve as a concise but comprehensive ready reference for medical professionals and students in health care who require information about the diagnosis, pathology and management of AIDS in the laboratory".

The information is presented in eight chapters. There are sections on general aspects of HIV, including epidemiology and treatment, clinical and laboratory diagnosis, safety and medico-legal issues. The bulk of the book is comprised of relatively brief descriptions of the main AIDS-related opportunistic infections and tumours, followed by a rather repetitive large chapter concerned with organ specific pathology. It is clear from the comments in the histopathology sections that the author has considerable experience of working on material from patients with AIDS. However, much is lost by the omission of illustrations. It is so much easier to demonstrate a cytomegalic cells with a good photograph rather than a written description. The rather poor line drawing does not usefully contribute.

The relative strength of the book is its reference list which is reasonably complete up to 1991. Each of the topics covered is reasonably referenced and this will provide a good starting point for obtaining more detailed information.

The chapters on more general issues are poor. As is typical with this type of publica-

tion, its approach is parochial and clearly directed to a North American audience. The author shows a lack of knowledge of epidemiology of HIV on a global scale, diagnostic tests for HIV, recent advances in treatment, and certain aspects of safety. The section on disinfection procedures is very poor and misleading. The author would do well to refer to the excellent review on HIV inactivation by Sattar and Springthorpe in *Reviews of Infectious Diseases* 1991;13:430-47. He would then realise that alcohols, which he recommends for disinfection, are not adequate for inactivating HIV. This misinformation is potentially dangerous, particularly for pathologists. It is also potentially dangerous and misleading to express hypochlorite concentrations as percentages when stock concentrations vary according to supplier. It is normally considered essential to express working strength in ppm available chlorine.

In summary, there are some valuable notes on histopathology, coupled with a reasonable reference list. It is a pity the author did not seek advice from one of the many HIV specialists in his country with the preparation of the more general sections.

DJ JEFFRIES

Notices

Twelfth Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition of the Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine

August 14-20, 1993

New York City, New York, USA.

For more information, contact SMRM, 1918 University Avenue, Suite 3C, Berkeley, CA 94704, USA. Telephone: (510) 841-1899. Fax: (510) 841-2340.

Nottingham National Breast Screening Training Centre

Image-guided breast procedures

Nottingham National Breast Screening Training Centre

City Hospital, Nottingham

Monday 19 April 1993

Monday 1 November 1993

The programme will cover the indications and protocols for breast biopsy and the relevance of preoperative diagnosis to surgical practice. This course is designed for radiologists, surgeons, and pathologists of all grades who have an interest in breast disease.

The speakers include:

Professor R W Blamey, professor of surgical science

Mr J F Robertson,

senior lecturer and consultant surgeon

Dr C W Elston, consultant pathologist

Dr I O Ellis, consultant pathologist

Dr A R M Wilson, consultant radiologist

Dr A J Evans, consultant radiologist

The course fee is £60.00 plus VAT (£70.50).

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. Tel: (0602) 691689 Fax: (0602) 627707

Oxford Regional Health Authority Cytology courses 1993 John Radcliffe Hospital Non-gynaecological and fine needle aspiration cytology course 2-16 June 1993

Suitable for MLSO and trainee medical staff; maximum number of participants is 35. Limited accommodation is available and other suitable accommodation can be recommended.

Course fees:

Employees of ORHA—no charge for the course but £10.00 is required for administration and hospitality costs.

Others—£350.

The FNA cytology component may be attended separately from 14-15 June. The fee is £100.

Course Organiser:

Dr I D Buley, Consultant Pathologist, Histopathology and Cytology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU.

Further details from Mrs Sue Berrill on Oxford 220512.

**Cervical cytopathology course
BSCC/MLS approved 21 September to 16 October.**

Diploma in Cytopathology Royal College Of Pathologists

The Royal College of Pathologists is introducing a Diploma in Cytopathology, with examinations twice a year, starting in Autumn 1993.

The examination is designed for histopathologists who intend to take a career post with an emphasis on cytopathology and who would like to demonstrate their proficiency in this subspecialty. With the new format of the MRCPPath, it will be equally suitable for those taking the Part 2 examination in histopathology or cytopathology, particularly for those submitting a higher degree or thesis. It will be available for pathologists in the United Kingdom, and for appropriately qualified pathologists from overseas.

For those with or without the MRCPPath examination, candidates will require three years approved training in histopathology (including 3 months cytopathology), followed by the equivalent of 9 months full time approved training in cytopathology.

The first written examination (two three-hour papers) will be taken on Tuesday 5 October 1993. The practicals and orals will be taken between Monday 15 November and Friday 3 December 1993. The closing date will be Friday 16 July 1993.

For further details and application forms, please contact the Examinations Officer, Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF; telephone 071-930 5861.

ACP Locum Bureau

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

Applicants with the MRCPPath 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.