samples. There are nine chapters dedicated to the female genital tract and a further seven chapters covering a range of other body systems. On the whole, the book is clearly written, accurate, and easy to read. However, the two final chapters on image analysis and flow cytometry are rather disappointing and a little out of date. For those about to sit examinations, the quiz in the appendix offers the opportunity for rapid revision, but I did find some of the answers rather obscure.

This book would have benefited from colour illustrations. The black and white pictures are generally of a high quality, but they fail to provide the clarity and subtlety of staining pattern necessary to be really useful to the inexperienced reader. Another serious deficiency in the book is the use of the Bethesda system of reporting cervical smears which could lead to confusion and difficulties in interpretation for cytotechnologists in the United Kingdom. Although the authors make an attempt to correlate the Bethesda system with other classifications, they fail to mention dyskaryosis which is the terminology used throughout the United Kingdom. Despite these criticisms, this book is not overpriced and would form a useful addition to departmental cytopathology libraries.

EUPHEMIA MCGOOGAN

ABC of Transfusion. 2nd edn. Marcela A Contreras. (Price UK £12.95, Overseas £14.50.) BMA. 1992. ISBN 0-7279-0754-9.

It is with some discomfort that I have to say I can find nothing to criticise in this short and uncluttered guide to the complete world of transfusion medicine. I mean, there must be *something* wrong with it, but I cannot think what it might be.

The text is lively, concise, up to date, and easy to read. Dogma rules and there are very few references, but this is an asset. The illustrations are liberal and helpful. There are little take-away messages in boxes dotted about the book with such aphorisms as "sick babies are more likely to be transfused than any other patients" or "transfusion of less than two units of red cells is bad clinical practice". Superficially these two comments might seem incompatible, but in the context of the chapters concerned no one is likely to be confused. Quite the reverse.

Who is it for? Definitely students (all shapes and sizes, under and postgraduate), anaesthetists, surgeons and physicians. Haematologists will use it surreptitiously, relieved to have such an easy source of information and guilty that they don't know it all already. In short it is hard to think of any clinical group who will not find it useful. There are even bits relevant to histopathologists. What more can be said?

JS LILLEYMAN

A pathology primer in verse. Leslie H Sobin, 2nd edn. Nomad Press, Washington DC, 1991 (\$US 10).

*To read a pathology text,
One's brain has to keep itself flexed,
So a book all in verse,*

*Might be less of a curse,
Though it makes one ask whatever next.*

*The traditional student may dread it,
But when one has actually read it,
One can say the result
Is amusing, if cult
And one feels Dr S deserves credit.*

Somehow Leslie Sobin has managed to encompass a wide range of pathological observations into five line stanzas along the style of that shown above. This second edition is an expansion of the first, published in 1978. Originally intended as an amusement it does, however, also contain a considerable amount of accurate, factual information. I recommend this inexpensive little book to you as a piece of light reading which may also enhance your recall of pathology!

DR TURNER

Atlas of Gynecologic Histopathology. Eds DS Heller, ML Stone. (Pp 172; illustrations 175; 50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1992. ISBN 0-316-35501-1.

This atlas of gynaecological pathology, according to the authors, aims to present a simple and concise guide to, and review of, the microscopic features of frequently encountered lesions. My immediate reaction on receipt of the book was one of disappointment on finding that the illustrations were all in black and white, rather than colour as is already available in comparable books such as that by Fox and Buckley (MTP Press Ltd). Although the illustrations are on the whole of good quality, there are some which have been underexposed. Equally, some of the original sections, which have been used for illustrative purposes, include microtome knife scores. The contents cover the histopathology of lesions of vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tube, ovary and pregnancy, and also include sections on gynaecological cytology and breast histopathology. The selection of lesions presented is interesting, but I do wonder how many pathologists would regard, for example, a fallopian tube adenocarcinoma as "a frequently encountered lesion". The text which accompanies the illustrations is rather brief and I would have thought to the potential reader would be inadequate for a proper understanding of the lesions being considered.

It is suggested that the book will be of value to trainee gynaecologists and clinicians wishing to review pathology. However, there are many excellent texts with good quality illustrations already available in this field, and I would find it difficult to recommend this particular book to my colleagues.

AJ ROBERTSON

The Royal College of Surgeons of England Atlas of Surgical Pathology. Ed JL Turk, CDM Fletcher. (Pp 300; 1075 illustrations; \$23150.) Raven Press. 1992. ISBN 0-397-44843-0

The Royal College of Surgeons has a long history of commitment to pathology museums, starting with John Hunter's pioneering collection, which by 1941, when

it was devastated by an incendiary bomb, had accumulated 15 000 specimens. The survivors were used to prime the new Wellcome Museum of Pathology which is the source of the 1 075 illustrations in this well produced atlas.

Each illustration has an informative legend, setting it in a clinical context, then describing the appearances and commenting on their meaning. The specimens have been photographed in their containers, which, because of judicious cropping, intrude as little as possible into the illustrations; but some are marred by scratched perspex.

It could be argued that a modern atlas of surgical pathology should be illustrated with fresh unfixed specimens rather than the rather tired-looking faded specimens in museums, but some conditions are, fortunately, of such exceptional rarity (for example, 8-19, the entire head of an elderly man ravaged by a basal cell carcinoma) that there is little chance of acquiring them prospectively. With fixed specimens, there is also the opportunity to perform meticulous dissections to demonstrate important features (for example, 1-85, a beautiful demonstration of varicose veins). A few illustrations just serve to satisfy our innate curiosity (for example, 4-79, bladder calculus formed around a tie-pin).

The main purpose of this atlas is to bring the contents of the Wellcome Museum to a wider audience. There is too much here for undergraduates and the emphasis is on conditions presenting as surgical problems. Surgeons and pathologists in training will find this book a useful resource.

JCE UNDERWOOD

Hematology of Infancy and Childhood. 2 volumes. 4th edn. Nathan and Oski. (Price: 184/\$250.) Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Ltd. 1992. ISBN 0 7216 3357 9.

"The gold standard..." screams the advertising leaflet for this 2 000 page, two volume, 5.5 kg multiauthor textbook, quoting from a review of the third edition. One immediately wonders if, as with posters outside theatres staging productions claimed to be "riveting" "an evening to remember" or "a joyous experience", some vital qualifier such as "not" or "hardly" might be missing.

The reader should be reassured. For size and effort alone the description would be appropriate, and the work is in reality a major reference source on haematology of human beings of all ages and not just children. There is much basic science, and extensive revision has been undertaken since the last edition five years ago. The editors must have a task akin to that of painting the Forth Bridge (that is, never ending), for the production time of a publication of this breadth and depth, marshalling some 90 expert contributors, must be a quinquennium at least.

Children's blood diseases tend to fall into two categories, extremely common and very rare. It is for the latter type that the contents particularly excel. To enter the literature (the North American literature, anyway) on any haematological topic, however obscure, this text is as good as a CD-ROM database. Although most sections are readable, the book is definitely for reference, not browsing. Its size and weight

will keep it out of briefcases and on shelves, and its price will confine it to institutions rather than individuals.

It will primarily be of value to consultant haematologists and senior trainees, and particularly those with a special interest in paediatrics. Is it truly a "gold standard"? At the risk of being quoted out of context, I would say it probably is, and could almost be described as a joyous experience. Let's see what the publishers make of that when the fifth edition comes out.

JS LILLEYMAN

Paediatric Haematology. Ed JS Lilleyman, IM Hann. (Pp 498; £65.) Churchill Livingstone. 1992. ISBN 0-443-04366-3.

In their preface the editors wonder whether this volume might become a surrogate "Willoughby II", some 15 years after Michael Willoughby's book appeared. I think it will. It smells like the paediatric haematology I see on this side of the Atlantic and contains chapters by many deeply involved in its current practice. Probably its most striking virtue is the chapter on normal ranges, uniquely presented as its first. Much of paediatric haematology is "regular" haematology provided that appropriate normal ranges are considered. Such information has often been restricted to large, expensive tomes and rarely consulted by general haematologists or paediatricians.

As with many compact books (and this is less than half the size and price of some comprehensive texts) the personal view, style, and experience of individuals comes through strongly. On the whole I think the vigour of such views weighs favourably against the exhaustive, balanced but dry nature of reviews in some larger texts. One is prepared to forgive the occasional broad brushstroke such as ignoring population-based incidence data derived from tumour registries on chronic granulocytic leukaemia in order to emphasise the relative paucity of such data in children. One could quibble with other details, but those concerned with such minutiae usually have access to other sources of information. I commend this book as a bargain and hope that the editors and contributors maintain their enthusiasm so that we do not have to wait another 15 years for such an accessible volume on paediatric haematology.

MM REID

Bone Marrow Pathology. BJ Pain, DM Clark, IA Lampert. (Pp 270; £79.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1992. ISBN 0-632-03401-7.

The reporting of bone marrow aspirates is an essential component of the work of most haematologists; that of marrow trephine biopsies often lies in the no-man's land between haematologists and histopathologists with neither side very keen to claim it. All trainees should therefore aim to become adequate and competent morphologists—able to provide an expert opinion in diagnosing a wide variety of pathology involving the bone marrow. There are no short cuts

to acquiring such knowledge. It requires time, patience, good teaching and good textbooks.

I consider this publication to be the best book currently available on interpreting bone marrow pathology and recommend its purchase to both haematologists and histopathologists. A full range of disorders affecting the bone marrow is described, including haemopoietic malignancies, infection, metastatic and miscellaneous disorders, and bone diseases. Also included is a very important chapter on normal appearances. There are many colour illustrations of an exceptionally high quality but the book is far more than an atlas since the authors succeed in their aim of placing bone marrow abnormalities within the broader context of clinical and peripheral blood features. Dr Bain, as a haematologist, and Drs Clark and Lampert, as histopathologists, emphasise the importance of both marrow aspirates and trephine biopsies in reaching a correct diagnosis and their joint work should serve as a model, for the reader, of the benefits to be gained by close collaboration between these two disciplines in diagnosing bone marrow pathology.

DA WINFIELD

Notices

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

1993

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
38th Annual Scientific Meeting
Hyatt Hotel, Perth, Western Australia
September 27–October 1, 1993

1994

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
39th Annual Scientific Meeting
Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide,
South Australia

1995

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
40th Annual Scientific Meeting
Sheraton Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand
October 9–13, 1995

Details from:

Honorary Secretary, Durham Hall, 207
Albion Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
Tel: 02 332 4266
Fax: 02 331 1431

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.

10th European Congress of Neurosurgery

May 7–12, 1995, in Berlin

All major topics of Neurosurgery will be covered. Highlights will be: spinal neurosurgery; minimally invasive neurosurgery; neuronavigation; interventional procedures; neuro-oncology; paediatric neurosurgery; functional neurosurgery and neurotraumatology.

Lunch Seminars will be held daily by outstanding experts, and will cover topics of practical interest. There will be an extensive social programme.

Information can be obtained from:

Professor Mario Brock,
Congress President,
Department of Neurosurgery,
Universitätsklinikum Steglitz,
Hindenburgdamm 30,
W-1000 Berlin 45, Germany.
Telefax: 0049/30/798-3569.

1994 Sleep Medicine Update

February 26, 1994

This continuing medical education conference will be held at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, California. Sponsored by Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation the course will offer seven hours of Category I CME credit.

For Further Information Contact:

Department of Academic Affairs 403C
Scripps Clinic and Research
Foundation
10666 North Torrey Pines Road,
La Jolla, CA 92037
Telephone: (619) 554-8556
Fax: (619) 554-6310

IMLS Symposia

16–19 September, Sheffield
Microbe 93

1–3 October, Coventry
Cellular pathology

2 October
Transplantation
Multidisciplinary update

22 October, London
ACP/IMLS joint meeting

4–6 March 1994, Preston
Cellular pathology

12 March 1994, Birmingham
Microbiology
Micropath '94

12 March 1994, Cambridge
Leukaemia review

April 1994, Durham
Microbiology North East '94
April 1994, Sheffield
Haematology

Contact:

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Tel: 071-636 8192