

Progress in Surgical Pathology. Vol XII. Ed CM Fenoglio-Preiser, M Wolff, F Rilke (Pp 310; 148 figs; DM180.00.) Springer. 1992. ISBN 3-540-541130-6

This book consists of 13 chapters prepared by a variety of experts on topics related to surgical pathology. Most chapters are well written with good black and white illustrations.

Five of the 13 chapters deal with aspects of pulmonary pathology which is disproportionate, particularly for those who see relatively few surgical specimens from lung problems. I did, however, appreciate reading the chapter which compares and contrasts "bronchiolitis obliterans with organising pneumonia and constrictive bronchiolitis", and also the chapter on "lymphoid interstitial pneumonia in HIV-infected individuals".

I suppose it becomes increasingly difficult to devise new topics for analysis and this volume does give the impression that some of the chapter topics are rather contrived. I must confess to being completely mystified by the chapter on "the pathology of the secondary yolk sac in spontaneous abortions". Perhaps I should have another attempt at reading it.

I looked forward to reading the chapter on "the use of immunocytochemistry present and future" and much of it was excellent. I was disappointed that insufficient attention was given to the pitfalls and problems of using immune techniques which many trainees also fail to appreciate. I felt that an obvious opportunity had been lost. Perhaps this could be addressed in volume XIII? I was also keen to read Isabel Filipe's chapter on "borderline lesions of the gastric epithelium". Perhaps I expected too much but I did not feel that our understanding of how to deal with borderline lesions is really progressing at the present time. I thought the chapters on "EB viral genome in routine paraffin sections" and "HPV infection associated with squamous carcinoma" were both timely and helpful. The chapter on vimentin staining in epithelial tumours is important because some surgical pathologists tend to assume that a positive reaction for vimentin means that a lesion is unlikely to have an epithelial origin.

Overall, an interesting volume to browse through and I would urge you to encourage your medical library to purchase it.

PROFESSOR D R TURNER

Pulmonary Endocrine Pathology, Endocrine Cells and Endocrine Tumours of the Lung. JR Gosney. (Pp 184; £50.) Butterworth Heinemann. 1992. ISBN 0-7506-1440-4

This monograph on the pulmonary endocrine system is of a high scientific standard and is written in an accurate and detailed manner. The canvas is broad. The book opens with a concept of the diffuse endocrine system of the body. This is followed in the next three chapters by an extended account of the morphology, development, distribution, physiology and secretory products of that part of the system confined to the lungs. The following two chapters deal with pulmonary endocrine cells in diseased lungs and experimental

injury. The latter half of the volume is concerned with the pathology, serum markers, and paraneoplastic manifestations of pulmonary endocrine neoplasms. There is an interesting account of endocrine differentiation in neoplasms of the lung.

The text is very detailed and tightly constructed. Each chapter has an extensive list of references and this will make the monograph of considerable value to research workers in the field. At the same time it has to be said that the inclusion of long lists of references in the text breaks up the flow of argument and does not help readability. These multiple references could have been blended more skilfully and less obviously into the text. As it is, long stretches of the text comprise quite detailed summaries of lists of original papers. One has the impression that the contents of the papers should have been digested first by the author and then assimilated into his text.

The approach followed makes this monograph a most helpful publication for aficionados in the subject. Whether it will lead non-specialist pathologists and clinicians to develop an interest in the pulmonary endocrine system is another matter.

DONALD HEATH

Guidelines for the organization of a blood transfusion service. Ed WN Gibbs and AFH Britten. (Pp 150; soft cover Sw. fr. 25.) World Health Organisation. 1992. ISBN 92-4-154445-7

This WHO manual is primarily aimed at those who are responsible for organising new blood transfusion services in developing countries. The contributors form an impressive list of individuals with wide experience in this particular field, and the book is eminently readable, flowing logically from recruitment of blood donors to uses of components, by way of all the tasks involved in ensuring that safe and effective products are produced.

The emphasis throughout is truly on the production of guidelines, giving the reader a comprehensive overview of the tasks involved in setting up a blood transfusion service, without going into too much unnecessary technical detail. Some of the chapters may seem to have a preponderance of technicalities—for instance, those on production of laboratory reagents and on blood group serology—but in fact they constitute a realistic view of what is feasible under the circumstances. Only very occasionally is there a small jarring note—for instance, at the exhortation that the conductance of LISS solutions being prepared should be checked as being between 3.6 and 3.7 Siemens. A trawl of blood banks in developed countries on this point would undoubtedly yield a high percentage of negative responses. Similarly, the recommendation of gluteraldehyde as one of the disinfectants of choice is rather at odds with the prohibition of this substance within Europe.

But these are small, rather nit-picking points. The manual seems to fulfil its declared intention admirably. In fact, it could well be declared as desired reading for all specialist trainees in the United Kingdom who may find themselves in

charge of blood banks of whatever size. It will most certainly give them a good grounding into what the running of a sophisticated blood transfusion service will entail.

W WAGSTAFF

Molecular Genetics for the Clinician. DJH Brock. (Pp 289; Hardback £35; Paperback £15.95.) Cambridge University Press. 1993. ISBN Hardback 0-521-41179-3; Paperback 0-521-42325-2

The "new genetics" is served by a number of detailed textbooks for the laboratory scientist, but there are few introductory texts for a medical audience. Professor Brock has filled this space with an excellent, attractively written, and very reasonably priced book. He leads the reader from basic genetic concepts, via recent advances in technology (particularly mutation analysis, such as multiplex ARMS PCR), to gene hunting and the molecular pathology of many diseases. The book is largely up to date: the molecular basis of fragile X, an unstable, variably repeated trinucleotide unit adjacent to a gene *FMR-1*, is described and the gene *APC*, which is mutated in familial adenomatous polyposis and sporadic colon tumours, is introduced. There are short sections on such diverse themes as genomic imprinting, telomere stability, and mitochondrial inheritance. The "suggested readings" at the end of each chapter are well chosen and avoid cluttering a concise text. A glossary would have been a useful addition.

This book competes somewhat with the third edition of Weatherall's classic *The new genetics and clinical practice* (OUP, 1991), which is stronger on the structure and regulation of genes and in which ethical issues are more widely discussed. *Molecular genetics for the clinician* is a good starting point for pathologists with an interest in molecular mechanisms. It would also be suitable for anyone in medicine or the allied professions who wants to know more about how molecular genetics has advanced our understanding of a wide variety of human ailments. For those seeking a philosophical treatment of some of the ethical issues raised by the human genome mapping project and genetic engineering generally, *What sort of people should there be?* by Jonathan Glover (Penguin, 1984) should provide a welcome challenge.

W FOULKES

Essential Haematology. 3rd edn. AV Hoffbrand and JE Pettit. (Pp 437; £14.95.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1993. ISBN 0-632-01954-9

This is a beautiful book. The third edition of Hoffbrand and Pettit is packed with superb colour figures, laboratory and clinical illustrations, and is magnificently laid out. The text is clearly written, contains excellent, up to date background science, comprehensive clinical and laboratory data and sensible advice on the management of a full range of haematological disorders. My