

# JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

The Journal of the Association of Clinical Pathologists  
A Registered Charity

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own students were delighted to see a copy and were unanimous in their view that this is a high quality bargain.

But what is essential haematology? As the authors acknowledge, the scope of the text is beyond the undergraduate curriculum, and those involved in medical education are trying desperately to teach ideas and method rather than detail to their hard-pressed students. The amount of knowledge generated over the past 10 years in haematology is staggering and contains elements of molecular biology, immunology, and microbiology which had not even been thought of when the second edition was published. Hoffbrand and Pettit have decided to take the plunge and to teach haematology from a scientific basis, hoping that the able student will revel in the excitement of progress while the less able will be able to keep up because of the clarity of the material offered.

This is an outstanding attempt to summarise modern haematology and it will be a long time before a better book is published in this field, but the title is misleading. How about "A Short Textbook of Haematology—Science, Investigation and Clinical Practice"?

BT COLVIN

## Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

**Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone.** A practical guide to LLETZ. Ed Walter Prendiville. (Pp 168; £60.) Chapman & Hall. 1992.

**The Correspondence of Charles Darwin.** Ed F Burkhardt, DM Porter, J Browne, M Richmond. (Pp 766; £40.00.) Cambridge University Press. 1993. ISBN 0-521-44241-9

Anybody who is interested in Charles Darwin soon realises the complex nature of his personality. This was brought out very clearly in the voluminous biography by Adrian Desmond and James Moore (Michael Joseph 1991). It was "based on newly transcribed and unpublished letters", from which statement of the publishers it is obvious how important the enormous correspondence of Darwin and his contemporaries is for the understanding of scientific evolution in 19th century England. It is, therefore, not surprising that the present book is volume 8 of the correspondence of Charles Darwin. It covers almost exclusively the year 1860 which most observers have regarded as a watershed. At the beginning of January 1860 John Murray published the second edition of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, printing off another 3000 copies to satisfy an audience that surprised the publisher and the author.

On reading even only part of this correspondence, it becomes sadly obvious how much our present generation has lost of the skills of clarity and elegance of expression, of caustic wit, which does not lack politeness, in short, of the highest form of the art of communication. This also applies when Darwin merely pays the bill for books he ordered (p 56). For students of Darwin the man, or for the period, the reading of the volumes of his correspondence is simply a must. For others, interested only in literature, it is a commendable pleasure.

VC MEDVEI

## Notices

### European Group for Breast Cancer Screening Annual Meeting

18 September 1993  
East Midlands Conference Centre,  
University of Nottingham

This meeting follows on immediately from the Nottingham-EORTC Joint Breast Cancer Meeting (14-17 September 1993). Preliminary programmes and registration forms are available from: Dr Robin Wilson, Nottingham National Breast Screening Training Centre, City Hospital, Nottingham NG5 1PB. Tel: 0602 691689. Fax: 0602 627707.

### Royal College of Pathologists

#### Advances in the diagnosis of myocardial infarction

Tuesday 21 September 1993, to be held at The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

#### Current topics in veterinary pathology

Wednesday 20 October 1993, to be held at The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

The meetings are open to members and non-members of the College. Further details and application forms can be obtained from Scientific Meetings Officer, RCPATH, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF. Tel: 071-930 5862 ext. 24/26.

### Course on Cytopathology for Histopathologists

31 January-4 February 1994  
Northwick Park Hospital

This is an intensive course in cytopathology suitable for candidates preparing for the MRCPath examination in histopathology, and for established histopathologists requiring revision. It is given by the Department of Cellular Pathology, Northwick Park Hospital (Dr Elizabeth A Hudson) and the Department of Cytopathology, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, University of London (Professor Dulcie Coleman).

The programme will consist of lectures, microscopy sessions and discussions. Topics will include cytopathology of the cervix and of urine, the respiratory tract, serous effusions and fine needle aspiration cytology of breast and other sites. The course is limited to 30 participants. The course fee is £250 excluding accommodation.

Applications and enquiries should be made to: Dr Elizabeth Hudson, Department of Cellular Pathology, Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ. Tel: 081-869 3311 or 3312.

### Association of Clinical Pathologists Junior Membership

Junior membership of the Association is available to medical practitioners who have been engaged in the practice of pathology for a period of less than four years. Junior members are able to remain in this category for a maximum of six years or on the attainment of consultant status. The annual subscription is £34 for those resident in the United Kingdom and £65 for those overseas. The annual subscription may be claimed against tax. Junior members receive the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* each month. Other benefits are reduced registration fees to attend ACP scientific meetings, all the documents regularly sent to full members of the Association including *ACP News*, which has a regular column for juniors, and the twice yearly summary of pathology courses included in the ACP programme of postgraduate education. Junior members have their own representative body, the Junior Members' Group, which has a direct input to Council. For Junior Membership apply to: The Honorary Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, 221 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. (0273) 561188.

### Correction

Sincere apologies are extended to Mr Agbarakwe, Effect of beta propiolactone on specific antibody measurements by ELISA *J Clin Pathol* 1993;46:368-9, for the errors which appeared in the above.

Mr Agbarakwe was incorrectly titled as Dr; the statistical program used was OXSTAT, not Amstrad; in the legend of figure 3, the units were U/ml and not IU/ml, and finally, in reference 5, it is, of course, pertussis vaccine and not pertussis vaccine as currently printed.