
This is the second edition of an atlas first published in 1985. The current edition differs from the previous volume in having an additional chapter on gestational disease. Despite this, this edition is shorter than the previous one, a fact accomplished by separating the text from the figures illustrating the features described in the relevant condition. Whilst this eliminates the extensive areas of unused paper which were a feature of the previous edition, it is rather inconvenient and the book now has more in common with an extensively illustrated short text book than a comprehensive atlas.

In the initial section entitled “Technical Remarks” the authors describe fixation of endometrial samples with 4% neutral formaldehyde as ideal. This is at variance with the opinions of the British gynaecological pathologists who prefer to use Bouin’s fixative which provides more uniform fixation of the endometrial stroma. The authors also recommend the routine use of at least two and up to four stains for interpreting endometrial specimens. I suspect that many British pathologists would find this an unwelcome intrusion into their working day. I was disappointed that there was no mention of the contribution that the use of critical point drying such as cryoprobe or transvaginal ultrasound make in diagnosis. In many centres these have become as much a part of the routine investigation of the endometrial cavity as tissue sampling. Furthermore, the challenges encountered in interpreting samples obtained by office techniques such as the Vabra aspirator and Pipelle sampler are not mentioned.

The text includes a range of differential diagnoses for each of the morphological appearances described—a feature which many pathologists, particularly the most junior trainees, will find useful. Some of the terminology used by the authors that is unfamiliar to me is extensively used in the UK and I do not believe that the grading of adenomatous (complex) endometrial hyperplasia or of high grade serous papillary and clear cell carcinomas is practised routinely in this country.

This book would be a useful acquisition for the medical library of undergraduate and postgraduate medical schools which train junior doctors in pathology and gynaecology. Those who would feel more comfortable with a book which adheres to British terminology and which provides text rather than extensive colour illustration, might wish to compare it with the upcoming second edition of Buckley and Fox’s Biopsy Pathology of the Endometrium before making a decision to purchase.

M K HEATLEY

If you wish to order or require further information regarding the titles reviewed here, please write to or telephone the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9JR. Tel: 0171 383 6244; fax: 0171 383 6662. Books are supplied post-free in the UK and for BFPO addresses. Overseas customers should add 15% for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque to Sterling drawn on a UK bank or by credit card (Mast erCard, Visa or American Express), stating card number, expiry date, and full name. (The price and availability are occasionally subject to revision by the Publishers.)

P P MORTIMER

Postgraduate Course
Current Concepts in Surgical Pathology
November 11–15 1996

The Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, will present a postgraduate course in Surgical Pathology under the direction of Drs NL Harris, RH Young and EM Jar. The course is designed for pathologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide in-depth review of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on morphology, immunohistochemistry, entity recognition and to new techniques, presented by the faculty of the Department of Pathology, Mas- sachusetts General Hospital. Attraction will be primarily be lecture, but will also include discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The course has Category I accreditation for approximately 35 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is $850.00 ($545.00) residents and fellows $650.00 ($419.00). For further information please contact: Depart- ment of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel: 617 432 1525.)

Forthcoming Royal College of Pathologists Sympo- sium
Cytopathology update: Developments and controversies in cervical and breast screening
Friday 6 December 1996

Practical problems for a coroners pathologist: Hope to cope Thursday 30 January 1997

New aspects of micronutrients in disease Wednesday 19 February 1997

Diet and cancer
Thursday 13 March 1997

The above meetings are open to members and non-members of the College. All meetings will be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, London.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from: Scientific Meetings Officer, RCPath, 73 Southwark Street, London SE1 9AF. (Tel: 0171 930 5862 ext 24/25.)

Postgraduate Course in Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology
March 24–28 1997

The Departments of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, will present a postgraduate course in Gynecologic and Obstet- ric Pathology under the direction of Drs RE Scully, RH Young, CP Crum, to be held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Boston.

This five day course is designed primarily for pathologists and pathology residents, but will also be of interest to gynecologists with an interest in pathology. It will provide an in depth review of gynecological and obstetrical pathology with emphasis on morphologic diagnostic features and clinicopathologic correlation. Special attention will be paid to recent advances and newly re- cognized entities. Instruction will be primarily by lec- ture but will also include discussion periods. A new feature of the course this year will be the opportunity to view glass slides of selected usual cases in the laboratory of the Massachusetts General Hospital during the evenings. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus. The course has Category I accreditation for approximately 30 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is $790.00 ($330) residents and fellows $575.00 ($285).

For further information, please contact: Depart- ment of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel: 617 432 1525; fax: 617 432 1562.)