

treatment. As the editors comment this is not ideal. To quote (p11) "in view of the short delay in obtaining the result, isolation of all rabies virus in cell culture should replace intracerebral mouse inoculation wherever possible" and (p223) "most of the rabies vaccines used for post-exposure treatment of humans are still produced from brain tissue. The Semple-type vaccine remains the most widely available rabies vaccine in the World... Post exposure treatment with brain tissue vaccines may induce severe neurological complications and vaccine failures are more frequent than with the new generation of cell culture vaccines and highly purified duck embryo vaccines. However, [they] are more difficult to produce... and... more expensive."

This book is an indispensable reference book and the best single rabies text available. It contains important current data on advances in rabies diagnosis—for example, in the use of the sensitive mouse neuroblastoma cell line in diagnosis and antibody determination, and the application of 'molecular' techniques. Buy it—or at least persuade your librarian to do so!

P P MORTIMER

Atlas of Endometrial Histopathology. Second revised and expanded edition. Dallenbach-Hellweg G, Poulsen H. (Pp 218; DM 268.00.) Springer. 1996. ISBN 3 540 60908 3.

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 feat 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 conventional 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 opinion of many 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 ancillary investigations such as hysteroscopy 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 seems to differ from that used routinely in the UK and I do not believe that the grading of adenomatous (complex) endometrial hyperplasia or of high grade serous pap-

illary 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 in Sterling drawn on a UK bank or by credit card (MasterCard, Visa or American Express) stating card number, expiry date, and full name. (The price and availability are occasionally subject to revision by the Publishers.)

Notices

Cytopathology for Histopathologists

February 3-7 1997

This is an intensive course in basic cytopathology suitable for all candidates preparing for the MRCPATH and Diploma in Cytopathology examinations, as well as established histopathologists requiring revision. It is organised by the Department of Cellular Pathology, Northwick Park Hospital (Dr Eamon Leen). The programme will consist of lectures, microscopy sessions and discussions. Topics will include cytopathology of the cervix, urine, respiratory tract, serous effusions, and fine needle aspiration of breast, lymph nodes, salivary glands, and other sites. In addition, keynote lectures will be given by Dr Amanda Herbert (Overview of cervical cytology screening) and Professor Sebastian Lucus/Dr Nick Francis (Cytology of infectious disease). The course is limited to 30 participants. Royal College of Pathologists' approval for 29 CME credits is envisaged (as per 1996). The course fee is £350.00, which includes lunch, refreshments and a course dinner.

For further information, please contact: Dr Eamon Leen, Department of Cellular Pathology, Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow HA1 3UJ. (Tel: 0181 869 3312; fax: 0181 864 1933.)

UMDS Dermatopathology Update

Friday February 21 1997

Venue: St Thomas's Hospital, London

Morning—Melanocytic Tumours Update Speakers: RW Sagebiel, R Barnhill, M Cook, BM Maguire.

Afternoon—Pre-circulated slide seminar

For further information, please contact: Dr PH McKee, Department of Histopathology, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH. (Tel: 0171 928 9292 exn 2295; fax: 0171 922 8322.)

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 EJ Mark.

The course is designed for pathologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide in-depth review of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on morphological features, newly recognised entities and new techniques, presented by the faculty of the Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital. Instruction will be primarily by lecture, but will also include discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The course has Category 1 accreditation for approximately 35 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is \$845.00 (£545.00) (residents and fellows \$650.00 (£419.00)).

For further information, please contact: Department of Continuing Medical Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Schattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel: 617 432 1525.)

Forthcoming Royal College of Pathologists Symposia

Cytopathology update:
Developments and controversies
in cervical and breast cancer 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, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF. (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 Obstetric 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 gynaecologists with an interest in pathology. It will provide an in depth review of gynaecological and obstetric pathology with emphasis on morphologic diagnostic features and clinicopathological correlation. Special attention will be paid to recent advances and newly recognised entities. Instruction will be primarily by lecture but will also include discussion periods. A new feature of the course this year will be the opportunity to review glass slides of selected unusual cases in the laboratories of the Massachusetts General Hospital during the evenings. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course

syllabus. The course has Category 1 accreditation for approximately 36 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is \$795.00 (£530) (residents and fellows \$575.00 (£383)).

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