

logical mechanisms, eight on immunopathological diseases, five on immunodeficiency diseases, seven on transplantation, 11 on the immunohistochemistry of neoplasms, and five on techniques. Many chapters have several hundred references, making the whole text a mine of information. The downside of so many contributing authors is that there is considerable repetition of information throughout the book and a lack of uniformity in the chapters. This is demonstrated by the illustrations. For example, the chapter on immunohistochemistry of skin tumours is entirely illustrated in colour, whereas the chapter on soft tissue tumours has only black and white photographs. The text is relatively under-illustrated for a book of this nature and colour illustrations are mainly restricted to a small format. Black and white photographs are of variable quality, some being uninterpretable. If this book is to run to a third edition, the editors and publishers need to address this problem and to ensure greater uniformity in the quality and style of illustrations.

The preface to the first edition states, "The primary purpose of this volume is to provide a practical and critical guide to the performance and interpretation of current immunologic tests performed in diagnostic pathology laboratories". It is stated that the book "will be of interest to practicing pathologists, clinical immunologists and other physicians with an interest in immunologic diseases and techniques". *Diagnostic Immunopathology* is certainly not a bench book and many pathologists will prefer smaller texts in their special area of interest which are more easily kept up-to-date than large, multi-authored tomes. Nevertheless, the second edition of this book appears to have achieved the objectives set out in the preface to the first edition. It would be a valuable reference source in any large pathology department or library.

E BENJAMIN

Haematological Oncology. Eds Armitage J, Newland A, Keating A, Burnett A. (Pp 264; £55.00.) Vol 4 in the series **Cambridge Medical Reviews**. Cambridge University Press. 1995. ISBN 0-521-46169.

A quotation from Dr Robert E Scully might serve to introduce our thoughts on this book. "... a pathologist unaware of the therapeutic implications of his (her) diagnosis can serve the patient no better than a clinician who fails to comprehend the meaning of a pathological report." A modern pathological report on the tissue diagnosis of a haematological malignancy is likely to read like a telegram, with numerous abbreviations referring to diverse antigens, and antibodies detecting them. Also likely are the mention of some other sophisticated techniques to indicate whether or not this is associated with a virus. The range and scope of haematological malignancies are far more numerous and complicated than the number of recipes to treat them, invoking comments from oncologists that immunomorphological classifications produce too many compartments, and therefore lack clinical relevance. The reviews, written by an assemblage of experts from all over the globe, and across all disciplines of medical science, almost deliver what the Cambridge University Press promises—that is, dissemination of new information to any one past the undergraduate medical curriculum. The coverage is selective, in solid tumours of lymphoid origin, such as anaplastic large cell lymphomas, both de novo and HIV associated; MALT associated lymphomas; splenic lymphoma with villous lympho-

cytes and its distinction from hairy cell leukaemia. The account of EBV in Hodgkin's disease is a state of the art review considering the speed of accumulation of information on the subject. The analysis of clinical use of growth factors is interesting to the uninitiated. There is a brief but practical chapter on the phenotype of leukaemias and lymphomas compiled by authors whose names are missing in the list of references. That leaves but only a few reviews not worth reading. Digestion of the information will depend on the acquired degree of lymphomania. A few experts may actually buy this volume, should their minds wander in search of details, even of a familiar entity.

G DELSOL
S M CHITTAL

Pathology Update. Volume 2. Endocrine Pathology. Eds Costa J, Nesland JM. (Pp 100; DM 58; Sw Fr 56.) Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1995. ISBN 3-437-11681-9.

This is the second volume in a new educational series from the European Society of Pathology. I understand that the series is intended to present state of the art reviews from topics presented at Euro Cell Path and the European School of Pathology Conferences. The publishers claim that "the Journal will be a valuable resource in a rapidly growing pathology world and will be the most important treasure for you to keep in front line for implementation of basic sciences in routine pathology".

The volume commences with a pertinent introduction from Fatima Carneiro and Manuel Sobrinho-Simões. This introduces the peculiarities of endocrine tumours and the difficulties in distinguishing between hyperplasias and neoplasias, and within neoplasias, between benign and malignant entities. It then goes on to state the rationale for choosing the individual review articles. The nine review articles which then follow have an about equal split between reviews of research based techniques such as cytometric DNA analysis, cytogenetics and molecular genetics on the one hand and straightforward description of diagnostic features on the other. The review articles are up to date, reasonably well written and extensively referenced. Where included, the illustrations are of good quality. The quality of the English translations is variable with a few examples of problems serious enough to cause difficulty in comprehension. For me, the high points of this volume are the article by Soares and Sobrinho-Simões "Recent Advances in Cytometry, Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics of Thyroid Tumours and Tumour-like Lesions", which gives a good review of current molecular biological work and the article by Fonseca and Sobrinho-Simões on "Diagnostic Problems in Differentiated Carcinomas of the Thyroid", which gives a closely worked detailed description of points in differential diagnosis.

Although there are many contenders in the market for good review articles such as *Recent Advances in Histopathology*, *Current Topics in Pathology*, *Pathology Annual*, and *Progress in Pathology*, there clearly is a demand for good quality recent review articles summarising recent findings in an era of constant proliferation of information all of which cannot be read by a medical practitioner at first hand. The question then arises—does this contribute anything extra by virtue of scope or quality compared with the other series of review articles available? I considered the articles in

this volume worth reading, but that the volume had no particular competitive advantage compared with the other series which exist.

T STEPHENSON

Self-Assessment Colour Review of Clinical Haematology. Mehta AB. (Pp 150; £14.95.) Manson Publishing. 1995. ISBN 1-874545-22-7.

This is an addictive book and should carry a health warning. It is a slim, pocket-sized volume (white-coat pockets only!) consisting of 72 brief case presentations illustrated with blood and marrow films, histological sections, x ray films and scans, electrophoretic strips, and laboratory results, all with self-testing quizzes and answers. Each case (with its quiz) is presented on one page and answered (with a full discussion) overleaf. The range of cases is admirable, covering every important aspect of haematology. I found the book impossible to put down.

The limitations of printing very small illustrations are evident—details of smears or scans may be missed, or conversely features like spherocytosis or thrombocytopenia may appear to be present when they are not. Let yourself off—it wasn't your fault you missed the diagnosis, it was the printer's.

Anyone who has just passed the MRCP exam in haematology should enjoy working through the book, get about 75% of the answers right, and complete the task in two or three hours. As a teaching aid for haematology trainees, it is invaluable. I wouldn't, however, recommend it for trainees in general medicine, less still for any medical student who hasn't already resolved to become a top haematologist.

For the next edition, a number of measurement units need to be corrected, and some eponymous names—Laurell and that long-suffering victim R R A Coomb's among them need justice done to them. It certainly won't be long before the next edition is needed.

N SLATER

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