

emphasises the use of urine cytology in clinical practice. I question the general applicability of cytodagnostic urinalysis in pathology laboratories.

M BRETT

**General Pathology.** Walter JB, Talbot IC, eds. (Pp 750; £89.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1996. ISBN 0443 042969.

The 7th edition of *General Pathology*, as with previous editions, attempts to "describe the fundamental process of pathology in relationship to the practice of medicine, particularly as it concerns the care of the patient". Many junior doctors have tended to view pathology as a hurdle to negotiate before graduation, only to realise when studying for postgraduate exams that pathology does not stop at medical school! An understanding of pathology informs clinical practice. *General Pathology* succeeds in being a very good review of the scientific basis of disease and emphasises its clinical importance.

The book covers all aspects of pathology from basic laboratory techniques and imaging, with up to date reviews of all the old favourites of pathologists such as tumours, inflammation and, of course, amyloidosis. There is very good coverage of oncogenesis and metastasis. The chapters on immunology have been completely updated and a whole chapter to the HLA system has been added. Overall, the text is very readable and most chapters do not assume a high level of prior knowledge.

Some areas could be expanded. Considering the importance of HIV, I felt this warranted more detailed coverage and was disappointed with the few paragraphs on prion disease in view of the theoretical potential threat of Mad Cow Disease! One further criticism is the paucity of diagrams. Though there are many plates of histology slides (all black and white), some sections were quite daunting due to the length of uninterrupted text. I felt some concepts would be easier to grasp with more diagrams to supplement the descriptions.

Overall, *General Pathology* is a good textbook of pathology suitable for medical students and candidates for postgraduate exams. The book is a comprehensive text for the pathology section of the current FRCS exam. However, in view of its length, cost, lack of diagrams, and colour I would not recommend it for an individual purchase but it is a valuable text for any medical library.

A WRAGG

**Skin Cancer.** 2nd edn. RM Mackie. (Pp 362; £75.00.) Martin Dunitz Publishers. 1996. ISBN 1-85317-203-0.

Finally, the UK Government has acknowledged the importance of cutaneous malignancies by setting a target in their Health of the Nation Document to halt the continuous annual increase in incidence by the year 2005. This second edition of *Skin Cancer*, first published seven years ago, goes a long way to update all medics in primary and secondary care faced with this problem. Rona Mackie is a world authority on the topic, especially in the field of cutaneous melanoma.

The author has tried to strike a balance between limiting the number of pages and providing a wide readership with enough illustrations, comprehensive text and key ref-

erences sensibly set out at the end of the book. With such a compact book of 362 pages there are bound to be omissions. She tries to cover both benign and malignant tumours and includes histiocytosis X, but not non-X-histiocytosis. Moreover, chapter 11 only outlines the topic of cutaneous lymphomas and the controversial "pseudolymphoma", a term which I understood most experts have done away with. Also, there is only a brief mention of the value of immunocytochemistry in differential diagnosis and no references to CD34 in identifying dermatofibrosarcoma. Overall, the book has tried to appeal to a wide readership at the expense of comprehensiveness. I was, however, surprised to see the number of typographical errors and poorly focused photomicrographs in what is a revised, updated book—for example, figs 12.3, 12.40, 12.48, 13.30, and especially 13.47. Presumably the publishers are at fault. In contrast, the clinical pictures are excellent.

I found much in this book to commend. The text is well written, appealing mainly to the physician, but skin pathologists would find the clinicopathological aspects valuable. I appreciated the chapter on malignant melanoma, especially the section on possible pitfalls in pathological reporting. I would, however, have liked to have seen more on this aspect and on horizontal and vertical phases of melanoma, a concept becoming more widely accepted.

R CERIO

## Notices

### The Leeds Course in Clinical Nutrition

September 3–6 1996

For further information, please contact: Mrs Hilary L Thackray, Department of Continuing Professional Education, Continuing Education Building, Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG. (Tel: 0113 233 3233; fax: 0113 233 3240.)

### Australian Institute of Medical Scientists National Science Meeting

October 6–11 1996

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I extend a warm invitation to all Medical Scientists, Technical Officers and interested parties, to attend the above conference to be held at the Convention Centre in Adelaide, South Australia.

The Conference theme is Aboriginal Health and will cover this and many other related topics and scientific endeavours.

Persons interested in taking part in the scientific program by presenting a paper or poster should contact: Mr John Stirling, c/o Histopathology Department, Finders Medical Centre, Bedford Park, SA 5042.

For further information, please contact: SAPMEA Conventions, 80 Broughams Place, North Adelaide, SA 5006. (Tel: + 618 239 1515; fax: + 618 239 1566.)

Brian Matthews, Chairperson Organising Committee.

### Dermatopathology for the general pathologist and dermatologist: diagnosis and broad review

September 25–27 1996

The Harvard Medical School Dermatopathology Residency Training Programme will present a postgraduate course in dermatopathology under the direction of Drs L M Duncan, R L Barnhill, T J Flotte, T J Harrist, and S R Tahan, to be held at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Faculty include Drs W H Clark Jr, M C Mihm Jr and S L Moschella.

Participants will review practical dermatopathology with attention to broad certification and will learn to assess problems that arise in dermatopathology practice. The course is specifically aimed at practising pathologists and dermatopathologists as well as residents and fellows preparing for broad certification examinations. The Wednesday and Thursday lectures cover diagnostic criteria for specific orders organised by disease type. On Friday, the morning session will emphasise problem solving in dermatopathology consultations. Participants are invited to submit a case for the faculty to review prior to the course; all cases will be returned with a consultative note. On Friday afternoon, there will be a broad examination review session. A detailed syllabus consisting of lecture outline material and references will be provided.

The course has category 1 accreditation for 21 hours of CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is \$500.00 (£333) (residents and fellows \$350.00 (£233)).

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.)

### Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Consensus Conference on

### Unrelated Donor Bone Marrow Transplantation

October 29 and 30 1996

Venue: Queen Mother Conference Centre, Royal College of Physicians The Conference will address the following issues, among others:

- The current status of blood or marrow transplants (BMT) from unrelated volunteer donors.
- The cost and the QALY; which patients will benefit most?
- Ethical care of the unrelated volunteer donor; how much can we expect?
- Alternative therapies; autografts and cytotoxic T cells.

For further information, please contact: Education, Audit and Research Department, Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ. (Tel: 0131 225 7324; fax: 0131 220 4393.)