

relating to low grade B cell tumours is thus particularly welcome. There is a valuable review of the more aggressive lymphomas, and the role of Epstein-Barr virus in lymphoid neoplasia is comprehensively explored, both in this context and in the informative chapter on post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders.

In general this volume sustains the excellent quality of others in this series; it is not only comprehensive but is very well illustrated and annotated and will be a welcome if not indispensable addition to the reference libraries of reporting laboratories on both sides of the Atlantic.

F D LEE

Wheater's Basic Histopathology. 3rd edn. HG Burkitt, A Stevens, JS Lowe, B Young. (Pp288; £32.00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1996. ISBN 0 4430 5088 0.

This book is a mystery. It must sell well as this is the third edition in English and there are French, German, and Spanish editions. The questions are who reads it and why?

It contains several hundred coloured photomicrographs, and a few electron micrographs and diagrams illustrating processes in general pathology and selected conditions in systemic pathology, accompanied by very extensive captions. The quality of the images, while mostly good, varies from the excellent to the barely adequate.

What is the role of a book like this, and to whom can it be recommended? This is not a textbook of pathology, nor is it intended to be. While there is much valuable information embedded in the captions, they explain the morphological appearances and there is no discussion of mechanisms (for example, the functions of cells and chemical mediators in acute inflammation). As an adjunct to, or replacement for, undergraduate practical microscopy sessions, it has its limitations. In the crowded undergraduate curriculum, pathological material must be chosen to illustrate important principles in general as well as systematic pathology, not to form budding diagnostic histopathologists. In this book the undergraduate will not see the wood for the trees as there is too much indiscriminately chosen illustrative material. A smaller collection of images illustrating key concepts in general pathology and major classifications of lesions in systemic pathology would be more useful.

A major lack is that of macroscopic images, often essential to the understanding of the clinical manifestations of pathological processes. Some of the illustrations of classifications of disease—for example, glomerulonephritis, breast carcinoma, and colonic polypi are arresting and thus serve their purpose, others, such as those dealing with lung tumours, are at too low a power to provide the strong visual impact needed. Thus, while the undergraduate will find it good in parts, he or she would be well advised to stick to a good text book and consult this volume only under close guidance.

Who else might use it? A trainee pathologist might thumb through it in the first few weeks of training as a revision aid but the images are, in the main, not good enough for a diagnostic atlas, and an MLSO will find it a cabinet of curiosities.

I remain puzzled as to who will find this book £32.00 worth of real value. The only

thing I can recommend is to have a look at it and see if you can solve the mystery.

E DUVALL

Pathology of Early Cervical Neoplasia. CP Crum, ES Cibas, KR Lee. (Pp 288; US\$70.00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1997. ISBN 0 4430 7590 5.

This book covers a wide range of issues relating to the diagnosis of early cervical carcinoma and its precursors. It is well illustrated with mainly high quality monochrome photomicrographs and a few colour plates of papanicolaou smears. It starts with a short historical perspective that describes the progression of classification systems, ending with the Bethesda system, followed by an interesting chapter on viral pathogenesis and the natural history of intraepithelial lesions.

British readers may find the terminology based on the Bethesda system confusing, although in much of the book, high and low grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (SIL) are related to grades of cervical intraepithelial cancer (CIN) more familiar in the UK. One has to get used to terms such as atypical (papillary) immature metaplasia (immature condyloma), atypical atrophy, and atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS). The photomicrographs of the first of these entities are equally confusing. Despite this, the two chapters on the differential diagnosis of low and high grade SIL are excellent. Similarly, chapters covering the differential diagnosis and diagnostic pitfalls of glandular precursors, adenocarcinoma, and early invasive squamous carcinoma are helpful once one gets used to substituting AIS (adenocarcinoma in situ) and glandular dysplasia for COIN. Each of the chapters dealing with diagnostic problems includes extensive cytological/histological correlation and gives several well illustrated case studies. The last chapter includes interesting discussions on the benefits of population screening with a stimulating debate on the feasibility and application of human papillomavirus testing.

Despite problems of nomenclature, this book is readable and informative and would prove useful to histopathologists and cytopathologists alike.

S WELLS

NOTICES

13th International congress of cytology

10-14 May 1998

Tokyo, Japan

For further information please contact International Medical Communications Center, Tokyo Medical College, 6-7-1 Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan (tel: +81 3 3342 6111 ext 5845; fax: +81 3 3342 0860; email: iactokyo@gol.com; internet: http://www2.gol.com/users/iactokyo).

Cytopathology for histopathologists

9-13 February 1998

Harrow, UK

This is an intensive course in basic cytopathology suitable for candidates preparing for the MRCPPath and Dip Cytopath 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 comprises lectures, microscopy sessions, and discussions. Topics include gynaecological cytology and cytopathology of urine, respiratory tract, serous effusions, and fine needle aspiration of breast, lymph node, salivary glands, and other sites.

In addition, keynote lectures will be given by Dr Amanda Herbert (overview of cervical cytology screening) and Professor Sebastian Lucas and Dr Nick Francis (cytology of infectious disease).

The course is limited to 30 participants and carries 30 CME credits. Course fee is £350 including lunch, refreshments, and a course dinner.

For further information please contact Dr Eamon Leen, Department of Cellular Pathology, Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ (tel: 0181 869 3311; fax: 0181 864 1933).

6th Southeast European congress of paediatric surgery: short bowel syndrome

22-23 May 1998

Graz, Austria

For further details please contact Dr Günther Schimpl, Department of Paediatric Surgery, Auenbruggerplatz 34, A-8036 LKH-Graz, Austria (tel: +43 316 385 3762; fax: +43 316 385 3775).

XXII International congress of the International Academy of Pathology

and 13th world congress of academic and environmental pathology

18-23 October 1998

Nice, France

For further details please contact Convergences/IAP 98, 120 Avenue Gambetta, 75020 Paris, France (fax: +33 1 40 31 01 65; email: convergences@iway.fr; internet: http://www.anapath.necker.fr/aip/aip.html).

**Royal College of Pathologists
one day symposia**

*Royal College of Pathologists
2 Carlton House, London SW1Y 5AF, UK*

Cytopathology of disseminated malignancy

19 November 1997

Preliminary programme (Chairpeople, Dr W Gray and Dr J A Young). The metastatic process: its biological basis (Professor I Hart); Advances in imaging techniques in patients with metastatic cancer (Dr D McVicar); Cytology: a predictive guide to therapy in metastatic breast cancer (Dr S Johnston); Cytological presentation of metastases in serous effusions (Professor T Krausz); Diagnostic cytology in metastatic spread to specific sites (Dr I Buley, Dr A Herbert, Dr G Kocjan, Dr S Ferryman). Professor L G Koss, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York will present the Foundation Lecture by Honorary Fellow: "Of tissues, cells and genes—reflections of an old pathologist".

Calman cancer units: minimum standards for dissection and reporting

26 November 1997

Preliminary programme (Chairperson, Dr P Quirke). RCPATH and ACP Cancer Services Group and minimum guidelines for reporting common cancers (Professor J P Sloane); Current problems in reporting colorectal cancer (Professor G Williams); Minimum standards for colonic cancer dissection and reporting (Dr N A Shepherd); Minimum standards for rectal cancer, and Assessing the quality of rectal cancer surgery (Dr Quirke); Minimum standards for lung cancer (Dr P E Da Costa); Guidelines for dissection and reporting breast cancer (Professor Sloane); Minimum standards for cancer of the prostate (Dr I D Ansell).

The vegetative state

11 December 1997

Preliminary programme (Chairpeople, Professor D Graham and Dr S Love). Diagnosis and differential diagnosis (Dr D Bates); Causes, frequency, and international aspects (Professor B Jennett); How best may the patient be investigated? (Professor J Pickard); What is its structural basis (Professor Graham); Is the damage irreversible: what is the potential for recovery? (Dr K Andrews); Forensic aspects (Professor M Green); Legal and ethical aspects (Professor S McLean).

The genetics of aging

22 January 1998

Preliminary programme (Chairpeople: Dr C Mathew and Dr A Barnicoat). An introduction to the pathobiology of aging and death (Dr D Cotton); The evolution of aging (Professor T Kirkwood); Telomeres and aging (Dr D Kipling); Aging syndromes (Dr Barnicoat); Aging and mitochondria (Dr N Wood); DNA repair: a link with aging (Professor A Lehmann); The genetics of Alzheimer's disease (Professor M Owen); Shaggy, dishevelled, and a molecular model of neurodegeneration (Dr S Lovestone).

Silent witness: fact of fiction? Recognition and interpretation of patterns of injury

26 February 1998

Preliminary programme (Chairpeople, Dr S Leadbeater and Professor M A Green). The single injury in the infant and young child (Professor Green); Head injury (Professor D Graham); Neck injury (Professor P Vanezis); Transportation injury (Wing Commander I R Hill); Resuscitation injury (Dr Leadbeater); Biomechanics of injury: is it possible? (Dr M Jones); Postmortem toxicology: can it be done? (Professor D Pounder); Serial homicide (Dr I E West).

Aspects of death and dying (II)

30 April 1998

Preliminary programme (Chairperson, Dr N Kirkham). The role of autopsy (Dr Kirkham); Breaking the bad news: counselling the next of kin (Professor L Fallowfield); Religion, ethnicity, and culture in relation to death and dying (Dr J Green); Corpses and the law (Mr S White); Public and professional attitudes to the autopsy (Dr R Stuart); Non-accidental death in infancy and childhood (Professor J Berry); Aspects of the confidential enquiry into maternal deaths (Dr H Millward Sadler); National confidential enquiry into postoperative deaths (Dr S Cross); The high risk autopsy (Professor S Lucas).

The symposia are open to members of the college, trainee pathologists, and workers in other disciplines interested in the subjects. The programmes are approved for CME. Registration fees (included coffee, lunch, and tea): fellows/members £75; trainees/retired £45; non-members £100. For further details, please contact the Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House, London SW1Y 5AF, UK (tel: 0171 930 5862 ext 24/25).