

Book reviews

Antibiotic and Chemotherapy. F O'Grady, H P Lambert, R G Finch, D Greenwood, eds. (Pp 987; £95.00.) Churchill Livingstone, 1997. ISBN 0 4430 5255 7.

The gestation period for this seventh edition of *Antibiotic and Chemotherapy* has been far in excess of that a pachyderm. As a result, has it turned into a white elephant? The short answer has to be "no". This long awaited volume, of what is now recognised to be a standard textbook, is to be welcomed. Gone are the days when the two founding fathers (L P Garrod and F O'Grady (Mary Barber)) could feel confident enough to cover everything. We have now expanded to 64 of the great and good from the UK, Europe, the Antipodes, and the USA—all experts in their field.

The book is divided into three main parts: general aspects of chemotherapy, the agents themselves, and treatment. There are 64 chapters, but it has to be said some are only three pages—concerning the coumarins such as novobiocin, not available in the UK; or five pages—chloramphenicol, an old agent about which little new could be said. The new edition does not confine itself to antibacterial agents alone. There are worthwhile contributions on antifungals, anthelmintics or anti-protozoals (including malaria), and the rapidly expanding field of antiviral agents, including those active against HIV.

The cost of textbooks are ever rising, with new volumes approaching £1000.00, so this tome represents amazing value at £95.00. It has to be on every bookshelf of any microbiologist of note. Preferably within arms length of the telephone, enabling one to field that awkward question at five o'clock on a Friday afternoon.

R C SPENCER

Diagnosis in Paediatric Haematology. Smith H. (Pp 338). Churchill Livingstone, 1996. ISBN 0 4430 5106 2.

Diagnosis in Paediatric Haematology is aimed at expanding the traditional atlas of morphology and in the main it succeeds admirably. Smith manages to avoid the pitfalls of endless expansion and keeps within his chosen remit.

The photomicrographs, clinical photographs, and electron micrographs are all clear and of high quality. The text is in general accurate, and the use of tables and diagrams excellent. There is a wealth of detail (did you know that Stormorken's syndrome is associated with large platelets or Imlerslund-Grasbeck syndrome with proteinuria?). This volume is much more than a syndrome spotters guide, the common conditions are

thoroughly presented in a logical, sequential way. The sections on leukaemia are particularly good, perhaps because the continuation of text and photographs works best in this area, the subjects less amenable to this approach are a little dry.

The book is well referenced and indexed, and I would recommend it as a very clear, easily accessible source book for both medical and scientific staff in any clinical or laboratory department that has regular dealings with paediatric haematology.

P J DARBYSHIRE

Rosen's Breast Pathology. P P Rosen, ed. (Pp 928; £196.75.) Lippincott Raven, 1996. ISBN 0 3975 1694 0.

There are only a few books available about breast pathology and some of these are 10 to 12 years old, so there is a need for a new text. During that time the management of breast diseases has changed, with increasing emphasis on a multidisciplinary approach. Although this point is recognised in the preface to this text, it is very much directed towards pure pathology. This is shown by the format, which starts at anatomy, runs through benign conditions, to a large component on different malignancies. There are chapters covering prognostic markers, cytology, and pathological examination, and one on shipping pathological material for patient care and consultation, but the major emphasis is detailed pathology.

One of the good points is the number and quality of the figures, both black and white and colour, which are of use in trying to categorise most lesions. The descriptions and discussion of most of the pathological entities are clear. Thirteen pages on adenoid cystic carcinoma and 47 on benign mesenchymal neoplasms may not reflect most people's practice but in this respect it is very much a reference tome. It is unfortunate that some terminology is out dated—for example, cystosarcoma phyllodes and intraductal carcinoma. The classification of ductal carcinoma in situ is still based on architecture; grading is given a limited discussion. In the invasive duct carcinoma selection the section on grading is also limited. The chapter on prognostic markers includes some which would not be considered now—for example, α lactalbumin, and it has large sections on c-erbB-2 but only a small amount on oestrogen receptor, and nothing of practical use about evaluation of receptors by immunohistochemistry.

Overall, this book is of use for categorising difficult pathological lesions of the breast and is, therefore, a reference text. Whether departments will want to purchase it will depend very much on their overall breast workload and practice.

R WALKER

Notices

1998 UMDS update in dermatopathology: adnexal tumours

Friday, 20 February 1998

St Thomas's Hospital,
London, UK

For further information please contact Dr P H McKee, Department of Histopathology, St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH, UK (tel: 0171 928 9292 ext 3493/2295; fax: 0171 401 3661).

Enzymes, receptors, and drugs in obesity and atherosclerosis

7-9 May 1998

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

An international symposium sponsored and organised by the International Society for Enzymology and the Canadian Atherosclerosis Society. For further information please contact Dr H V Markle, Department of Laboratories, Centenary Health Centre, 2867 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 4B9, Canada (tel: +1 416 281 7251; fax: +1 416 265 8781; email: HVM@myna.com; web site: <http://www.clintox.com/eroda/>).

Cytopathology for histopathologists

9-13 February and 15-19 June 1998

Sheffield Cytology Training School,
Sheffield, UK

A five day intensive course of theoretical instruction and practical workshops in gynaecological and non-gynaecological cytology for candidates preparing to sit the MRCPATH examination or the Diploma in Cytopathology. The course is also suitable for qualified histopathologists wishing to increase or update their cytology experience.

Fee: £350 including lunch and refreshments; on site accommodation is available at modest cost. Approved for 25 CME credits.

For further information please contact Mrs E M Hewer, Sheffield Cytology Training School, Northern General Hospital NHS Trust, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU, UK (tel/fax: 0114 2715500; email: ehewer@dial.pipex.com).