

Book reviews

The Lymphoproliferative Disorders. Child JA, Jack AS, Morgan GJ. (£45.00.) Chapman and Hall Medical, 1999. ISBN 0 412 58030 6

This book is aimed primarily at higher specialist trainees in haematology, haematopathology, and oncology. It has two sections. Section 1 reviews basic pathology, lymphoma classification, laboratory methods, radiological techniques, and principles of treatment. The second, larger, section describes individual disease entities. Most of the illustrations are black and white, except for central colour plates that are not referred to in the text.

The book is attractively presented. Summary points appear in bold type—a good revision aid. Tables list the main features of each disorder from morphology to disease pattern. These are helpful but one large table listing—for example, immunophenotypes of the various peripheral B cell lymphoproliferative disorders would have made comparisons easier and saved much shuffling through the pages.

Coverage of subjects is generally thorough and there are few omissions. Chapter 3 does not mention two newer techniques (somatostatin receptor scintigraphy and positron emission tomography) that are being evaluated in lymphoma staging and the assessment of residual mediastinal masses. The value of prognostic indices in stratifying treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is mentioned. However, after the publication of the international prognostic index this approach is also gaining ground in Hodgkin's disease.

There are several irritating typographical errors, most notably fig 6.8 and its accompanying text (page 138), where there is some confusion about the Philadelphia translocation!

In summary, this text is a useful adjunct to specialist registrar training and the authors are to be congratulated on coordinating contributions from so many local specialists.

A LENNARD

Pathology of Tumours of the Central Nervous System. McLendon RE, Bigner DD, Bigner SH, *et al.* (£125.00.) Arnold Publishers, 1999. ISBN 0 340 70071 8

This book is intended as a companion to the 6th edition of Russell and Rubinstein's *Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System*. The authors have been joined by a neuroradiologist, to provide a more detailed clinical approach to the diagnosis of brain tumours.

The book is divided into three main sections dealing separately with lesions commonly encountered in adults, those occurring most commonly in children and young adults, and a final section concerning

tumours of maldevelopmental origin. In each chapter, essential information is highlighted in tabular form, and the text emphasises the diagnostic approach, with discussion of differential diagnosis and investigations, and useful guidance from the authors on their experience of immunocytochemistry, including the use of cell proliferation "markers" for diagnosis. There are some minor criticisms that could be made, particularly the rather arbitrary division of contents between the first and second chapters, and the inevitably dated genetic information. The book is based on the 1993 WHO classification, and because this has been revised recently, a few of the recently recognised entities are missing. All the main tumour entities that are commonly encountered in diagnostic neuro-oncology are presented, and the book will make a useful addition to departmental shelves.

My colleagues and I have found this a useful supplement to the existing books on brain tumours, and I would recommend it wholeheartedly to any pathologist involved in the diagnosis of brain tumours, and also to neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, clinical oncologists, and neuroradiologists with an interest in neuro-oncology.

J W IRONSIDE

Liver Biopsy Evaluation; Histologic Diagnosis and Clinical Correlations. Kanel GC, Korula K. (£95.00) WB Saunders, 2000. ISBN 0 7216 7692 8

The interpretation of liver biopsies is generally considered to be a difficult task by many pathologists, especially those who are confronted with liver biopsies only occasionally. In this book by Kanel and Korula the evaluation of a liver biopsy is tackled very schematically. In the introduction, the pathologist is guided through the various parts of the liver biopsy. If a biopsy is thus examined, the pathologist can be confident that all aspects are thoroughly considered. Next, the morphological landmarks such as cholestasis, pigments, and portal lymphocytes with or without periportal activity are described. This part of the book contains numerous colour photographs and provides tables with the clinical entities in which the landmark can occur. A chapter on liver diseases describes in tables the histology and clinical and laboratory parameters of various liver diseases, with reference to the tables with landmarks. Finally, the changes induced by a great number of drugs and toxins are described.

In its algorithmic approach, the book resembles the book of J Ludwig (*Practical Liver Biopsy Interpretation*; ISBN 0 89189 347 4). However, this book is more extensive and the photographs are more abundant and colourful. With its practical approach, it is warmly recommended for every pathologist involved in liver pathology, but it is too limited for those with a special interest in pathophysiological processes.

E BLOMENA

Calendar of events

Full details of events to be included should be sent to Maggie Butler, Technical Editor JCP, The Cedars, 36 Queen Street, Castle Heddingham, Essex CO9 3HA, UK; email: maggiebutler@pilotree.prestel.co.uk

Diagnostic Gynaecological Pathology

13–15 January 2001, The Embassy Suites, Palm Desert, California, USA

Further details: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical school, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel +1 617 432 1525; fax +1 617 432 1562; email hms-cme@hms.harvard.edu)

Endometrial Cytology Workshop

31 January 2001, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Further details: Zoe Watson. (Tel +44 01462 473166)

Urological Surgical Pathology for the Practising Pathologist

24–26 March 2001, Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa, Fort Myers, Florida, USA

Further details: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical school, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel +1 617 432 1525; fax +1 617 432 1562; email hms-cme@hms.harvard.edu)

6th European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care

29–31 March 2001, Bologna, Italy

Further details: BMA/BMJ Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK. (Tel +44 020 7383 6409; fax +44 020 7383 6869; email Quality@bma.org.uk; website www.quality.bmj.com)

BSCC Northern Spring Tutorial: Gynaecological Cytology

8 March 2001, Manchester, UK

Further details: BSCC Office, PO Box 352, Uxbridge UB10 9TX, UK. (Tel +44 01895 274 020; fax +44 01895 274 080; email lesley.couch@psilink.co.uk)

BSCC London Spring Tutorial: Lung and Pleural Cavity Fluid Cytology

27 April 2001, Guy's Hospital, London, UK

Further details: BSCC Office, PO Box 352, Uxbridge UB10 9TX, UK. (Tel +44 01895 274 020; fax +44 01895 274 080; email lesley.couch@psilink.co.uk)