

Book reviews

Biopsy Interpretation of Bone and Bone Marrow; Histology and Immunohistology in Paraffin and Plastic. Cytogenetics in collaboration with Rothman, R. 2nd ed. Frisch B, Bartl R. (£95.00.) Arnold, 1999. ISBN 0 340 74089 2.

This book is beautifully produced and, as one would expect from these two authors, is generally very well illustrated. It is based largely on the authors' very extensive experience of trephine biopsy histology and is therefore not extensively referenced. In contrast to the previous edition, illustrations are now derived from sections of paraffin wax embedded as well as plastic embedded biopsy specimens; pathologists from countries where plastic embedding is little used will appreciate this feature. Illustrative diagrams are clear and helpful and the literary style is clear.

Despite the title, this book deals only with the interpretation of histological features of core biopsies (or open biopsies). Aspiration biopsy of the bone marrow is largely ignored and I succeeded in finding only a single photograph of an aspirate—a Perl's stain of ring sideroblasts. This will be a definite disadvantage for many haematologists and may encourage histopathologists to undervalue the role of aspiration cytology.

A third of the book deals with bone histology. This section is particularly comprehensive and useful. It also serves to remind the reader of the close relation between bone and bone marrow, and of the influence of bone disease on bone marrow histology. Perhaps this section of the book will encourage both histopathologists and haematologists to make a careful assessment of the bone before turning their attention to the haemopoietic tissue.

The two thirds of the book that deals with the bone marrow gives a detailed account of bone marrow histology. Although bone marrow aspirates are not discussed some consideration is given to immunophenotyping and cytogenetic analysis. There are no serious omissions.

Are there any problems with this book? I found some of the illustrations to be at too low a power to be really informative. I also regretted the lack of information on magnification; there is not always a ready point of reference so that the reader may be able to get an impression of the size of any abnormal cells. In the latter fault this book is not unique; it is one of many contemporary histopathology textbooks that do not feel the need to inform the reader of the magnification of the photomicrographs.

If one wished to find individual errors a careful reading will unearth several. The authors carry over from the previous edition the concept that paratrabecular infiltration is not seen in centroblastic/centrocytic

lymphoma whereas a nodular pattern of infiltration is common; this puzzling observation is contrary to the findings of most other haematopathologists. The grouping of very diverse inherited and acquired conditions under the heading of "Langerhans cell histiocytosis" is unhelpful, and at least one of the translocations given as characteristic of malignant histiocytosis in this table is much more typical of anaplastic large cell lymphoma, indicating previous diagnostic confusion between these two conditions. The authors' use of the term "granuloma" to describe the focal lesions of systemic mastocytosis is confusing, as is their use of the term "biopsy" to describe tissue obtained after death. Nevertheless, in a book of 367 pages, covering such a large field, mistakes are probably inevitable and one can only sympathise. The authors probably became aware of many of these errors shortly after publication.

Overall, a well illustrated account of bone marrow histology with bone histology being a particular strength.

B J BAIN

Histological Typing of Ovarian Tumours, 2nd ed. Scully RE. (£49.50.) World Health Organisation, Springer, 1999. ISBN 3 540 64059 2.

The World Health Organisation's histological typing of ovarian tumours (second edition) aims to establish definitions of tumour types to aid worldwide uniformity and reporting of ovarian tumours.

This short book includes an extensive morphological classification, including FIGO and TNM systems, preceded by definitions and explanatory notes.

There then follows a collection of 150 half page (108 × 70 mm) predominantly full colour illustrations of each of the types outlined in the classification.

Most of the illustrations are excellent and help with newly described lesions, such as borderline serous tumours with a micropapillary pattern, and tricky types such as clear cell carcinoma with oxyphilic cytoplasm or containing bull's eye mucin accumulations. Occasionally, the illustrations are marred by section artefact or inconsistencies. Figure legend 98 asserts that yolk sac tumour can be distinguished from dysgerminoma by the presence of glandular spaces. Yet, fig 92 of a dysgerminoma shows similar spaces that resemble gland-like structures.

There is significant overlap with the AFIP fascicle on tumours of the ovary because the two publications share a common author. Unfortunately, every time an AFIP illustration is used the full reference is appended to the figure legend. This is unnecessarily repetitive.

It is convenient to be able to flick through the collection of illustrations but slightly tedious to refer to a preceding section for the text description. Nevertheless, this is an excellent graphical aid to correct tumour classification. It should be made available to anyone reporting ovarian surgical samples.

L J R BROWN

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

Recent Advances in Genetics

5 July 2001, Royal College of Pathologists, London, UK

Further details: Michelle Casey, Academic Activities Coordinator, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF, UK. (Tel +44 020 7451 6700; fax +44 020 7451 6701; www.rcpath.org)

BSCC Annual Scientific Meeting

9-11 September 2001, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, UK

Further details: BSCC Office, PO Box 352, Uxbridge UB10 9TX, UK. (Tel +44 01895 274020; fax +44 01895 274080; email lesley.couch@psilink.co.uk)

Current Concepts in Surgical Pathology

12-16 November 2001, The Four Seasons Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Further details: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, PO Box 825, Boston, MA02117-0825. (Tel +1 617 432 1525; Fax +1 617 432 1562; email hms-cme@harvard.edu; web page <http://www.med.harvard.edu/conted/>)

41st St Andrew's Day Festival Symposium on Therapeutics

6-7 December 2001, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, UK

Further details: Eileen Strawn, Symposium Coordinator. (Tel +44 0131 225 7324; fax +44 0131 220 4393; email 2.strawn@rcpe.ac.uk; website www.rcpe.ac.uk)

Correction

Microorganisms in the aetiology of atherosclerosis. Morré SA, Stoker W, Lagrand WK, et al. J Clin Pathol 2000;53:647-54.

In the acknowledgements section of this paper, with regard to the financial funding of Dr Niessen by the Dr E Dekker programme of the Dutch Heart Foundation, the grant number (D99025) was omitted. The authors apologise for this oversight.



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