

BOOK REVIEWS

Differential Diagnosis in Pathology: Urologic Disorders.

J. I. EPSTEIN. Igaku-Shoin, New York, 1992. No. of pages: 192. Price: £60.00. ISBN: 0 89640 222 3.

This unique volume consists of 68 short chapters which consider the histopathological features that may be employed in distinguishing two or more similar conditions. Entities discussed include renal oncocytoma and renal cell carcinoma with oncocytic features, radiation and chemotherapy atypia versus carcinoma-*in situ*, and adenosis versus low-grade prostatic adenocarcinoma.

This is an interesting concept for a pathological text and one which has many attractive features. Within a week of receiving this volume for review, I was using it (with success) in the reporting of a papillary lesion in the prostatic urethra.

A typical chapter consists of a page of text opposite six black and white photomicrographs. The illustrations are generally excellent and illustrate clearly what is intended. Inevitably the selection of subjects reflects to some extent the author's particular interest, and nearly half the chapters deal with the prostate and particularly prostatic adenocarcinoma and its mimics/antecedents. However, with the increasing use of radical prostatectomy for stage A1 carcinoma of the prostate, this is perhaps understandable and indeed justifiable.

Criticisms are generally minor in nature; the occasional printing error—the references for Chapter 52 must, I believe, be for 51, and on page 153 under prognosis and treatment, 'Teratomas with atypia have the same prognosis as teratomas with atypia' presumably should refer to immature teratoma. Epstein talks of Bowen's disease of the glans penis (with erythroplasia of Queyrat as a synonym); I usually reserve this term for the shaft of the penis only. The number of references for each chapter varies considerably and some have none at all—I would have preferred more, especially as the text is liberally sprinkled with percentage survival rates and such like. It would have been useful to know whether these were Epstein's personal experience or gleaned from the literature.

This is not a book to read at one or two sittings but is a very useful bench-book to refer to when problems of differential diagnosis arise. I am very pleased to have it on my book shelf and would recommend it for all departments with a substantial uropathological work-load. I shall look forward with interest to see if this concept is carried on in other areas of histopathological differential diagnosis.

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Urinary Tract Pathology: An Illustrated Practical Guide to Diagnosis. J. BERNSTEIN and J. CHURG. New York, 1992. No. of pages: 263. Price: \$156.50. ISBN: 0 88167 832 5.

Most histopathologists' reporting rooms contain a collection of dog-eared books near the microscope; these bench-books are re-read and relied upon to solve problems or to retrieve half-forgotten facts while reporting. It is to a place with these trusted volumes that *Urinary Tract Pathology: An Illustrated Practical Guide to Diagnosis* is targeted.

The guide covers inflammation and tumours of the urinary tract from the renal pelvis to the urethra and also tumours of the renal parenchyma. There is a section on the congenital abnormalities that pathologists are likely to encounter. Throughout, the emphasis is on presenting information that is of practical diagnostic value and to this end, the editors have adopted a consistent layout and style. Each condition is introduced by a short defining paragraph. This is followed by a structured discussion, including the macroscopic and microscopic appearances and, where appropriate, radiology, electron microscopy, and immunocytochemistry. Well-established classifications, staging, and grading systems are used and where more than one system is in common use (e.g., in the staging of bladder cancer and grading of prostate cancer), both are presented: little attempt is made to discuss the pros and cons of various systems. Consistent with the aims of the book, extended coverage is given to topics that may cause particular diagnostic difficulties. Embryonal renal tumours get 25 pages of text and illustrations, whereas epithelial tumours of the renal parenchyma are dealt with in 12 pages. This is probably fair: although very much less common, the embryonal tumours more commonly cause diagnostic difficulties and, indeed, the consequences of diagnostic error are greater. One outstanding area is the treatment given to atypical epithelial proliferations of the prostate and difficulties in the differential diagnosis of benign prostatic lesions from well-differentiated prostatic adenocarcinoma. Not only are conditions such as prostatic adenosis and prostatic dysplasia described in detail, but practical and robust criteria for discriminating benign from malignant prostatic glands are offered.

The guide is well and appropriately illustrated by some of the best colour photomicrographs I have seen. These are grouped together at the end of each chapter in traditional WHO style and are not referred to in the text. This presumably facilitates the very high quality of the printing but does force the reader into a fair amount of page turning. In addition, some important histological points are included in the captions to the figures; these

would have been better placed adjacent to the main text. One further grumble here: only one example of each point is illustrated, leaving a fair amount of white space on several pages. Filling this space with further examples of conditions which, after all, may show considerable variation in their appearances would have enhanced the book and left the purchaser feeling he or she has better value for money.

Although well-indexed, the guide is poorly referenced. No citations are given in the text but a 'selected bibliography' is placed at the end of the book. In some cases, it is not difficult to see how the selection was made (31 references on prostate cancer and atypia are cited, eleven of which include a member of the guide's writing committee as an author). Those who wish to use this as a source for further reading are going to be disappointed.

If bought, will it be kept near the microscope and referred to frequently? I think it will: the editors and authors have compiled a comprehensive manual of urological pathology. The comprehensive coverage together with the detailed discussion of difficult differential diagnoses and the excellent illustrations offer a combination that many pathologists will find valuable.

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Cytopathology Annual 1992. W. A. SCHMIDT (Ed.).
Williams & Wilkins, London, 1992. No. of pages: 307.
Price: £58.00. ISBN: 0 683 0 7618 3.

This book is the first of a series of volumes to be published annually on a wide range of subjects related to research and diagnostic aspects of cytopathology. Many renowned authors from centres of excellence in the United States of America have contributed to this book. Aspects of research, clinical applications technology, and political topics are covered.

The aim is to review advances in cytopathology with respect to the diagnosis and detection of disease, its influence in treatment, and its role in a better understanding of aetiology, pathogenesis, and prognosis. As stated in the Preface, it aims to 'meet both current and anticipated needs in an expanding field'.

The book comprises eight chapters concerned with specialist cytopathological applications, followed by a collection of reviews on the medico-legal aspects of cytopathology in the United States of America. Subject matter in each chapter is covered in depth and referenced extensively. Numerous photomicrographs are included, almost all of which are of excellent quality and clarity. Most are black and white but some colour photomicrographs are included. Five of the eight chapters are concerned with diagnostic aspects of pancreatic neoplasms, an update on broncho-alveolar lavage, urothelial dysplasia and carcinoma, fine needle aspiration of the breast with respect to diagnosis of tumour type and grading, and, finally, a comprehensive review of the role of cytopathology in the

diagnosis of AIDS-related diseases. The remaining three chapters relate to special techniques in cytodiagnostics and cover the application of electron microscopy, steroid receptor analysis in cytological material, and an overview of cytogenetics in human neoplasia.

Approximately one-third of this book is devoted to commentaries by leading cytopathologists regarding the medico-legal aspects of cytopathology in the United States. In 1987, certain cytology laboratories received adverse media attention amid allegations of poor performance. This resulted in legislation in the form of the Clinical Laboratories Improvements Amendment of 1988 (CLIA' 88). These articles are written with reference to this legislation, with emphasis on laboratory accreditation and audit. At first sight, it seems excessive to set aside one-third of the book to this subject but it makes interesting reading to see the impact of this legislation and its implementation in cytology laboratories in the U.S.A. In addition, there are many aspects which are relevant to the practice of cytopathology in the United Kingdom.

There are also six appendices concerned with lists of accredited laboratories, training schemes, etc. which are of no direct relevance to cytology in the United Kingdom. However, Appendix F is a report prepared by the Project Director of the American Society of Cytotechnology, who performed detailed surveys in cytology laboratories in order to assess laboratory performance. I note that those laboratories failing to meet the required standards following implementation of CLIA' 88 are published for all to see on the very last page! A sign of things to come?

In summary, this first volume has achieved its aims and it is hoped that the authors will continue to produce articles of high standard in future volumes and include articles on gynaecological cytopathology. This, and presumably future volumes, is best suited to experienced cytopathologists and cytotechnologists as prior theoretical knowledge and practical experience of cytology are required to appreciate fully the contents of each chapter. Although cytopathology trainees may find this volume useful, it is not for basic reading by those just embarking on a career in cytopathology. Nevertheless, it makes stimulating reading and, by emphasizing how specialist techniques are increasingly being used in cytopathological diagnosis, confirms that cytopathology is still an expanding field.

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Advances in Gynaecological Pathology. D. LOWE and H. Fox (Eds). Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1992.
No. of pages: 400. Price: £60.00. ISBN: 0 443 04377 9.

This book comprises 17 chapters on a wide range of subjects in gynaecological pathology written by specialists in their fields. It provides up-to-date information on aspects of research in gynaecological pathology and comprehensive articles which highlight those areas where disease classification has been modified and those aspects