

erythroleukaemia cell differentiation dealing with the regulation of expression of developmentally specific genes, and the relationships between differentiation and the cell cycle. The second is concerned with the molecular biology of murine mammary hyperplasia. Evidence is presented that premalignant mammary hyperplasias are the result of critical alterations in cell DNA leading to clonal cell proliferations and tumours. It is postulated that mouse mammary hyperplasias should be more appropriately considered as protoneoplastic rather than preneoplastic conditions.

The fifth review (84 pages) is concerned with the control of oncogenes (Anders, Scharl, Barnekow and Anders). The *Xiphophorus* (ornamental swordtail) tumour system is described in detail. The development of melanomas requires an oncogene which, after impairment, deletion, or elimination of its regulatory genes, is permitted to mediate neoplastic transformation. The mode of action of these regulatory genes is critically discussed although this mode of action is still unclear.

The final review (58 pages) is concerned with the newly-defined concept of contrasuppression (Green and Gershon). Two types of regulatory T-cells act upon the central helper T-cell. One acts to down-regulate the helper cells' activity while the other blocks this down-regulation (the contrasuppressor cell). This cell appears to act by making the helper cells resistant to the signals delivered by the suppressor cell. This review covers the immunological consequences of activation of the contrasuppressor circuit, tumour immunity and human examples of contrasuppression.

There is much of general interest and information in this volume, the selection of topics spans the fields of molecular biology, genetics, oncogenes, immunology and immunohistochemistry, and is especially relevant to the important advances being made with these techniques in current cancer research.

These reviews are of considerable interest to both the specialist and non-specialist who are seeking to acquire new information and this volume is recommended as a valuable source of reference.

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Tumors of the Kidney and Urinary Tract. S. OLSEN.
Monksgaard, Copenhagen, 1984. No. of pages: ix + 291. Price: D.Kr.570.00. ISBN: 87 16 09040.

The major role of most histopathologists is in the diagnosis of tumours. Neoplasms of the kidney and urinary tract provide us with some of our most difficult problems, for diagnosis should imply an assessment of the likely behaviour of a lesion and not be just a label. We come perilously close to signifying nothing when we confidently diagnose a well-differentiated adeno-carcinoma

of the prostate in a few chips of the many removed at transurethral resection. Where else is an incompletely removed adenocarcinoma ignored by the surgeon? This inability to predict biological behaviour will remain an embarrassment until we can use some magic marker, such as a DNA probe, to signify aggressive behaviour. The pragmatic guidelines that have evolved over the years can be found in this book, which can serve as a reference volume but is written well enough to be read from cover to cover. It is very well illustrated and gives a good account of the tumours of the kidney and urinary tract. It is written by a pathologist for pathologists and is particularly orientated towards diagnostic work. It does not attempt to discuss aetiology, pathogenesis or experimental work except for a few words in passing. I am not sure of the difference between a 'colour atlas and textbook' and a 'textbook illustrated with colour pictures' but this is certainly an attractive work. Tumours and tumour-like lesions of the kidney are dealt with in 109 pages, the urinary tract in 86 and the prostate in 46. Appendices (classification and staging systems), references and the index account for the remainder. Within the chapters about 40 per cent of the pages are taken up by pictures which are mainly colour photomicrographs with some colour macrophotographs and a few black and white electron micrographs and radiographs. The histology is particularly well illustrated with useful photographs illuminating the points made in the text. The author states that he has not attempted to provide uniform staining of the sections, so there is a wide variety of 'H&Es', ranging from the almost monochrome blue to monochrome red, though the majority are well balanced. With modern colour printing techniques the more successful H&Es (as illustrated on the dust jacket of this book) are usually high magnification, with plenty of red and blue and virtually no yellow. Very low magnifications using a $\times 4$ objective are often poorly produced unless a thicker, heavily stained section is used for the initial photograph. Some of the pictures here, as in many other histology colour books, show these defects but they are in a minority. It is often stated that it is difficult to see why such books are not produced in black and white, which would be cheaper and would show fine detail better. Colour, on the other hand, makes the book much more stimulating: who takes family snaps in black and white these days? There is no denying that the finer detail of the wart on Aunt Ellen's nose would be shown better by a well focussed black and white picture but colour makes the whole thing more real. The macroscopic photographs are mainly of fixed specimens and, hence, are rather brown.

The text is written in clear English, only occasional phrases sound awkward to the anglophone. It is gently didactic in non-controversial areas and where there are conflicting ideas Professor Olsen gives alternative views, then his own opinion. The chapters on tumour-like lesions are particularly helpful but no new solutions are offered to such problems as the solitary focus of prostatic carcinoma, apart from refining our grading systems. I

suspect that many British pathologists would regard the lesion in Fig. 9.4 as a transitional cell carcinoma, rather than the papilloma it is labelled in the book. Elsewhere Professor Olsen writes that the Büschke–Lowenstein lesion is a non-invasive proliferation. To many pathologists in Britain the term implies a low grade invasive squamous tumour—really a verrucous carcinoma. Perhaps it would be better to abandon the eponym because it means different things to different people.

References are mainly from the 1970s but do come up to 1982.

This is a very good book both for the trainee and established histopathologist. After reading it the former may well be wiser than most of his seniors.

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