

Book reviews

Tumors and Tumorlike Lesions of Bone: Pathology, Radiology and Treatment

Edited by F.Schajowicz. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2nd edn, 649 pages. DM580.00.

Diseases of Bones and Joints: Cell Biology, Mechanisms, Pathology

Edited by J.R.Salisbury, C.G.Woods & P.D.Byers. Chapman & Hall Medical, 568 pages, £75.00.

The student of osteoarticular pathology can now choose from a wealth of good quality textbooks to which have been added these two contrasting volumes. Although they differ markedly in breadth and depth of content, they will obviously compete for pathologists' already stretched book funds.

The second edition of Fritz Schajowicz's textbook comes 13 years after the initial highly praised version. The author, one of the 'greats' of bone tumour pathology, sadly died between completion of the manuscript and publication. This is an excellent memorial, its quality reflecting the author's vast experience gained from his training with Erdheim in Vienna, a spell before the war at the Rizzoli Institute in Bologna, and over 40 years in Buenos Aires where he founded the Latin American Registry of Bone Pathology. The book follows the author's recent revision of the WHO classification of bone tumours, and gives statistical analyses of the South American experience for each lesion followed by a detailed description of the clinical, radiological and pathological findings. Perhaps its outstanding feature is the superb quality of the illustrations showing the correlation of clinical and specimen radiographs with gross and microscopic pathology. Many of the gross specimens show unusually advanced tumours. As usual, Springer Verlag have provided a very high quality of reproduction. Helpful additions from the first edition are sections on current concepts of treatment of bone tumours, and modern imaging.

There are a few mildly disappointing features. Swithering over a difficult cartilaginous lesion of synovium I was very surprised to find that the section in the first edition on joint tumours had been dropped. Perhaps the other major, although clearly unintentional, omission which to some extent detracts from its value as a benchbook for the practising pathologist, is that there are only a few brief mentions of metastatic tumours in bone. The pathologist about to diagnose a malignant fibrous histiocytoma in bone

might expect a book of this type to prompt him to consider a metastatic spindle cell carcinoma of kidney or lung. Clear cell renal carcinoma is not mentioned in the section on clear cell chondrosarcoma and an indication that metastatic uterine leiomyosarcoma should be considered before a diagnosis of primary leiomyosarcoma of bone is made would have been helpful. Finally, although the book is heavily referenced, very few articles published after 1991 are included, even in the rapidly expanding area of Ewing's tumour and primitive neuroectodermal tumour.

Overall, this is a superb book which pathologists, radiologists and surgeons who deal with bone tumours will want to have on their shelves. The financially challenged, presumably pathologists, who already have the first edition, may feel disinclined to buy their own copy as, not unreasonably, many of the illustrations are the same.

General histopathologists who see few bone tumours may feel that the recently published AFIP fascicle provides sufficient information on bone tumours at considerable saving, but any who do buy this book will not be disappointed.

'Diseases of Bones and Joints: Cell Biology, Mechanisms, Pathology' is a valiant attempt to cover the whole range of bone and joint pathology in a medium sized volume and, as such, may appeal rather more to the busy general pathologist. The three principal authors are distinguished orthopaedic pathologists who have recruited additional contributions from recognised experts in their fields. The book is divided into four sections: an introduction to the diagnostic method; developmental, inflammatory and metabolic bone diseases; bone tumours; and the cell biology of bone.

The first section clearly defines basic terms, although sometimes at unnecessary length. An interesting innovation, is a tabular check list giving the essential features, acceptable features and exclusion criteria for most diseases. This will prove valuable to anyone confronted with a diagnostic problem. An excellent chapter on bone radiology by Dennis Stoker completes this section although readers may wish that the legend to Figure 4.1 supplied the diagnosis for the four 'leave me alone lesions' which the radiologist (but perhaps not the pathologist) should recognise.

The section on non-neoplastic diseases includes a clear summary of the many forms of skeletal dysplasia with the current international classification as a seven page appendix with numerous references. Arthritis and bone and joint infection are well described, and the

histological appearances of metabolic bone diseases have been separated from the sections on histomorphometry, which only those working in the field will want to read. I enjoyed the section on bone tumours which is clear, succinct and well illustrated. The role of immunocytochemistry in bone tumour diagnosis is discussed more fully than in Schajowicz's book. The final section outlines the embryology and growth of bone and some of its reactions, and there is a brief section on factors which control bone turnover.

This is by no means a conventionally written textbook. Some sections, such as that on embryology, are a little difficult to read and some of the tables make heavy going. However, it is well illustrated, although the final reproduction has not helped a few of the photomicrographs and the radiograph shown in Figure 13.41 is upside down.

There are some debatable comments—is osteocalcin really a synonym of osteonectin (page 9)?; should the presence of malignant osteoblastic tissue exclude the diagnosis of dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma (page 24)?; is synchronous multicentric osteosarcoma only of middle grade (page 315)?

But this is to carp. All in all the authors are to be complimented on completing a mammoth task. I recommend this book: the reader will enjoy its many excellent features and forgive the more verbose passages.

R.P.Reid

An Introduction to Neuropathology

J.H.Adams & D.I.Graham. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 2nd edn, 1994, 417 pages, £35.00.

The first edition of this textbook was produced in 1988, following which it rapidly became established as a valuable guide to neuropathology for trainees and consultants in histopathology. The new edition is expanded considerably in size from its predecessor and incorporates new chapters on functional neuroanatomy and diseases of the orbit. The other chapters have been extensively revised, particularly the chapters on peripheral nerve and skeletal muscle, which have now been contributed by two separate experts. The aim of this book is to provide an introduction to neuropathology for trainees in histopathology and in neurosciences. The expanded scope of this second edition reinforces the role of neuropathology as an important bridge between basic pathology and clinical neuroscience.

The revision of this book is timely in light of the new WHO classification for tumours of the central nervous

system which is adopted here. Recent developments in our understanding of dementia, AIDS and head injury are also incorporated. The new chapter on functional neuroanatomy is of particular value in bridging the gap between disease processes in the brain and the clinical manifestations of cerebral dysfunction; with the increasing availability of MRI scanning this approach is particularly to be commended. The main authors have achieved a lucid style of writing in all chapters, which is usefully complemented by many monochrome illustrations and line diagrams. I was a little disappointed not to see more illustrations of immunocytochemistry, since immunocytochemical investigations are mentioned frequently throughout the text.

This book deserves to follow the success of its predecessor. It is beautifully produced at a relatively modest cost and is an essential purchase for all pathology and all clinical neuroscience departments.

J.W.Ironside

Diseases of the liver and biliary tract: standardization of nomenclature, diagnostic criteria, and prognosis

Edited by C.M.Leevy, S.Sherlock, N.Tygstrup and R.Zetterman. Raven Press, New York, 1994, 219 pages, US\$50.50.

This small book provides an internationally recommended nomenclature for virtually all diseases of the liver, biliary tract and gallbladder. Diagnostic aspects— aetiological, clinical, biochemical, radiological and morphology—are dealt with briefly, and in addition the salient features, clinical behaviour and prognosis are also succinctly summarised. It contains a wealth of information and, while it will primarily be purchased by all who are interested in hepatology, it can be confidently recommended for purchase by any histopathology department which receives a significant number of liver biopsies.

R.N.M.MacSween

Molecular Biology in Histopathology

Edited by J.Croker. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 176 pages, £24.95.

This is an excellent little book which is eminently readable: your reviewer enjoyed dipping into it as a 'book at bedtime'. It is, as stated in the preface, directed at 'those just qualified and undertaking research' or 'those who have taken degrees some years in the past

and who wish to glean new information rapidly'. Your reviewer clearly falls into the latter category but would also claim some overlap with the former! The book is not simply an account of methodology, although it essentially covers the molecular techniques which are now widely applied in the pathological sciences: *inter alia* it deals with filter and *in situ* hybridisation, the polymerase chain reaction, interphase cytogenesis (where fluorescence *in situ* hybridisation is dealt with) and flow cytometry. There is an excellent account of cell proliferation, dealing with molecular and immunological (more correctly immunocytochemical, I would

suggest) aspects; interphase nucleolar organizer regions (to the study of which the editor has made many notable contributions); and the molecular aspects of apoptosis. It is very much up to date with many 1993 references cited. I strongly recommend it as a personal buy for histopathologists; furthermore, those middle-aged histopathologists (in terms of qualifications) whom the editor omits from the targetted readership should not feel too smug about buying it. I would confidently (and modestly) suggest that the majority of them will find much here for their further enlightenment.

R.N.M.MacSween

Introduction to Neuropathology. Article in The Yale journal of biology and medicine 42(5) Â· March 1970 with 2 Reads. Source: PubMed Central.Â In Neuropathology 700 to 800 brains were examined yearly. The abundance of pathological material would be an important factor. Two residents in Neuropathology were responsible for the day-to-day work: Dr David McDougall, the senior, and myself. Dr McDougall developed formalin dermatitis â€| View. Course Neuropathology is a online collection of images and descriptions of specimens used for teaching medical students and residents. This page is divided into following courses: Basic neuropathology - preclinical medical education. Molecular neuropathology - ideal for bachelor of molecular medicine or oncology. Advanced neuropathology - clinical medical education.