BOOK REVIEWS

Progress in Pathology Vol 2, by Nigel Kirkhan and Nicholas R Lemoine. Published by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1995. Paperback. £17. Pages 269. ISBN 0-443-05309-X.

After the great success and popularity of the first volume of 'Progress in Pathology', the second volume has gone a step further in fulfilling its aims and objectives of providing a comprehensive review on current topics of common interest. There are a wide range of topics covered in this volume extending from cell death and apoptosis to Epstein-Barr virus which immortalizes the lymphocytes in some lymphomas. Practical guidance has been given about the interpretation of transbronchial and open lung biopsy mainly of non-neoplastic diffuse nature. The differential diagnosis of Spitz tumour has been covered in great detail. Two chapters are devoted to breast pathology. The first deals with duct carcinoma in situ, its diagnostic criteria and histological classification as well as practical guidance about its surgical management and pathological examination of the specimen. The second

deals with relevance of oestrogen receptor and method of its evaluation. There is a good chapter dealing with prognostic features in colo-rectal cancer which deals with various staging systems and gives practical guidance for dissection and reporting of colo-rectal cancer specimen. Molecular biology has been covered in the form of molecular genetics in renal neoplasia, adhesion molecules and apolipoprotein-E. There are also chapters dealing with newer methodologies such as confocal laser scanning microscope, in-situ reverse transcriptase PCR and place of transgenic model of diseases.

The volume is a good substitute for 'Recent Advances in Pathology' and it is a must for every practising pathologist and consultant as well as postgraduate students of pathology to update their knowledge.

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Advances in Surgery. Volume 29. Edited by JL Cameron. Published by Mosby Year Book Inc., St. Louis 1996. Pages 312. Price \$72. ISBN 0-8151-14958.

This book consists of 17 concise yet informative and truly up-to-date chapters of topical interest. The topics have been carefully selected and written by acknowledged authorities in their respective fields. There is a judicious mix of management of commonly encountered conditions in surgical practice (Ch 4: Management of perianal diseases) as well as some of the uncommon but truly challenging radical surgical procedures (Ch 13: Pelvic exenteration for rectal cancer; Ch 14: Vascular resection and Intra-operative radiotherapy during pancreaticoduodenectomy). In the present era of minimally invasive surgery, 4 chapters have been devoted to laparoscopic or minimally invasive surgery. The chapters on endoscopic vagotomy for duodenal ulcer disease (Ch 17) and endovascular stents and stented grafts (Ch 5) are specially interesting; the latter have already caused a mini-revolution in the field of vascular surgery.

An interesting feature of this book is that in case controversy exists in management of a condition, the opposite options are cogently presented and argued in separate chapters by different authors. The reader can thus

draw his own conclusions. Laparoscopic colectomy for cancer of colon is one such example, and has been dealt separately in two chapters (Ch 8 & 9).

The book is specially useful for Indian surgeons because some of the conditions frequently encountered in this part of the world have been adequately addressed (Perianal diseases, <Ch 3>; Colonic volvulus, <Ch 7>; Meckel's diverticulum, <Ch 12>; and Intrahepatic stones, <Ch 6>). Some chapters deserve mention as classics in their own right (Tamoxifen therapy, <Ch 15>; Current management of CBD stones, <Ch 16>).

The book has been printed on high quality glossy paper. However the more important fact is that the scientific content of this book is reason enough to mandate reading by practising surgeons, teachers and postgraduate residents alike. Strongly recommended for reading by the surgical fraternity, and an excellent buy as a personal copy as well as in any institutional library.

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