

directly from the authors; are they conference proceedings; were they peer reviewed? We are not told, and short of writing to the editor, there seems to be no way of finding out.

Given the apparently low production costs a price of £71.50 is unacceptable, and this is the sort of publication that I am used to receiving free from drug firms. For any given level of interest there are many books that are too expensive for an individual to purchase; there are also many that are too expensive for a department to purchase; and there are some, like this, that are too expensive to justify purchase by a hospital or university library.

DWK COTTON

**Hematologic Disorders in Maternal-Fetal Medicine.** Ed MM Bern, FD Frigoletto. (Pp 709; \$149.95.) John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1990. ISBN 0-471-56213-0.

When it comes to feto-maternal and neonatal haematology, paediatric haematologists are often at a disadvantage (in the United Kingdom, at least) because their services do not usually include maternity hospitals. Clinicians unaware of this will none the less seek their advice on obscure perinatal blood disorders, so it is essential for them to have up-to-date reference texts easily to hand when the telephone goes down with the promise 'I need time to think about that one; I'll call you back'.

Enter stage left Drs Bern and Frigoletto to take a bow. Their multiauthor text provides a ready source of succinct information and references covering the whole difficult area of blood disorders in pregnancy from the point of view of both mother and child. There are plenty of useful neonatal data (or perinatal, to be more precise), and the book is conventionally divided into red cells, white cells, platelets and coagulation. There is a little gem of a section that the authors could not quite logically place elsewhere (one can picture the head-scratching that went on) called 'special areas of interest'. This covers such miscellanea as antineoplastic treatment in pregnancy, marrow transplants and fertility, HIV infection, and the association between histiocytosis X and pregnancy and fetal health.

It is impossible in a brief review to catalogue the subjects which are well described, though haemostasis and thrombosis are particularly thoroughly dealt with. There are inevitably occasional lacunae, such as, for example, lack of mention of congenital leukaemia. It is an extremely rare problem, but for that reason one which would provoke instant reference to textbooks as soon as it was encountered. In fact, white cell disorders generally get fairly briefly dismissed in a single chapter.

But there is no doubt this book is well aimed at a poorly served section of the haematology market and will be eagerly seized on by consultants as a source of information to help in their day-to-day work. Recommended.

JS LILLEYMAN

**Textbook of Fetal and Perinatal Pathology. Vols. 1 & 2.** Ed JS Wigglesworth, DB Singer. (Pp 1308 + Index; £195) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1991. ISBN 0-86542-118-8 (the set); 0-86542-119-6 (Vol 1); 0-86542-120-X (Vol 2).

This beautifully presented book is in two volumes, the first covering principles and major problems, and the second specific disease processes encountered during fetal and perinatal life on an organ specific basis.

The authors comprise 31 acknowledged experts from both Europe and North America, and despite the multiauthorship, the text is readable and informative with little unnecessary repetition and a uniformity of style which speaks of good editorship. This book provides an up to date and authoritative review covering both the theoretical aspects and practical problems of fetal and perinatal pathology—the importance of which is increasingly recognised as prenatal diagnosis becomes more securely established in clinical management and further inroads are sought in reducing perinatal mortality.

In terms of content, coverage, illustrations, etc, it is difficult to fault, and it is undoubtedly the best of the various recent texts published on this subject. The general layout of subject matter, which is very like that of the similarly titled book edited by Dr Jean Keeling, allows easy access to any information required, a task facilitated by the comprehensive index. In short, this is an excellent and well presented text book for which the authors, editors, and publisher should be congratulated. It should be a must for specialists in the field.

PA RISDON

**Directory of On-Going Research in Cancer Epidemiology. 1991.** IARC Scientific Publications. No 110. Ed M Coleman, J Wahrendorf. (Pp 764; £38.) World Health Organisation. 1991. ISBN 92 832 2110 9.

This is the fifteenth directory of on-going research in cancer epidemiology, and contains 1147 descriptions of research projects being carried out in 62 countries. It comes with a program on a diskette suitable for IBM compatible microcomputers. This facility makes it easier to carry out searches.

The directory is principally organised by country, with an accompanying list of investigators, index of terms, cancer sites, types of studies, chemicals studies, occupation studies, cancer registries throughout the world, and a list of biological material banks. This is a useful reference volume for scientists involved in cancer epidemiology.

N WALD

## NOTICES

### ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRCPPath who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact The General Secretary, School of Biological Sciences, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QC. Tel and Fax: 0273 678435.

### Workshop in Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology of Breast

One day workshop for pathologists providing a cytology service.

**Monday 30 September 1991**

**Regional Cytology Training Centre Guildford**

**£75.00**

The workshop will consist of lectures in the morning covering mammographic indications for stereotactic cytology, preparation and staining techniques, and cytological appearances. The afternoon session will be devoted to microscopy covering a wide range of benign and malignant breast disease.

Application forms are available from Dr Grace McKee, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Egerton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XX. Telephone: 0483 571122 Ext 4257.

### An update in Dermatopathology United Medical and Dental Schools St Thomas's Hospital Campus Friday 28 February, 1992

Topics include: Malignant sweat gland tumours; bullous dermatoses; borderline melanocytic lesions; panniculitis; connective tissue tumours; lymphocytic infiltrates.

There will be a precirculated slide seminar.

For further information contact:

Dr Phillip McKee,  
Department of Histopathology,  
St Thomas's Hospital Medical School,  
Lambeth Palace Road,  
London SE1 7EN

### Sixth International Conference on Behçet's Disease

**Paris, 30 June–1 July 1993**

Plenary sessions, free papers, and poster sessions will cover all aspects of Behçet's disease and particularly the adequacy of the new criteria.

In honour of the centenary of Charcot, the meeting will be held in Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital. Exhibits from contributing pharmaceutical companies will be on display in the 17th century chapel built by Le Vau.

Deadline for abstracts: 1 February 1993

Information from:

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