

Book Reviews

PATHOLOGY OF THE EAR

I. Friedmann, W. Arnold. Churchill Livingstone, 1993. ISBN 0 443 03917 8. Price: £135. pp. 774. Illus. 602.

In 1974, 'Pathology of the Ear', written by Professor Friedmann, appeared and remained the major work devoted to Pathology of the ear. Now a new 'Pathology of the Ear' has been published and Professor Friedmann has been joined by Professor Arnold from Luzern, Switzerland and four other contributors. Since 1974, histopathological techniques have changed considerably and the book reflects these changes along with the advances in our knowledge of ear disease.

The book is divided into five parts with the first two being on inflammatory disorders and neoplasms. These chapters will be the ones that surgical pathologists will find the most useful in their everyday practice. They provide a comprehensive account of the range of diseases and biopsy appearances.

The third and fourth parts of the book provide a detailed account of pathology of hearing loss. As with the first two parts these chapters are very detailed and copiously illustrated, almost to excess in places—33 illustrations of otosclerosis are included, for example. Throughout the book, normal anatomy and cell structure is discussed before pathological changes and this is particularly useful in the chapters on inner ear disease. Again, the advances in pathological techniques are well illustrated with the role of scanning electron-microscopy of the structure of the cochlea being particularly elegantly demonstrated. Many illustrations are accompanied by line drawings which enhance the interpretation.

The final part of the book discusses techniques including removal of temporal bones and their preparation, the application of immunohistochemistry to the temporal bone and tissue culture. The last few chapters are on biochemistry of the inner ear, bioelectric phenomena of the cochlea and comparative pathology of hereditary deafness, comparative pathology also being included in appropriate chapters in the book.

The book has greatly expanded in size and length since 1974. The illustrations are almost all of high quality. There are few errors in production. Figures of 17.5 and 17.6 have been transposed, for example, and I only spotted one 'typo'.

The book is extensively referenced, from historical papers to papers published in 1991. The book starts with a set of colour plates. Whilst these are visually pleasing, I am not convinced that they add anything to good quality black and white photographs and I hope they have not increased the cost of the book. However, these are minor quibbles.

The book should be on the shelf of all serious students of the ear. There is a wealth of useful clinical information and is certainly not just for the specialist in histopathology. To pathologists, I hope it will show the potential that the ear provides for study. This book provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date account of pathology of the ear. By today's standard the cost, £135.00, represents good value for money.
Chris Milroy

ABC OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Harold Ludman. BMJ Publishing Group. ISBN 07279 0765 4. £8.95.

Now in its third edition, this book is one of the popular and generally excellent ABC series from BMJ publishing. Aimed at General Practitioners, nurses and medical students a readable and practical view of the specialty is provided with commendable guidance on when to refer and the management of common ENT emergencies. The text is illustrated throughout to good effect emphasising key points and possible clinical pitfalls—these providing students with a useful revision guide. The first half of the book, dealing with otology is detailed and certainly sufficient for undergraduate study. Later chapters covering rhinology and laryngology are less comprehensive, though concise and again practical in guidance. This book does not attempt to cover several areas relating to head and neck disease and those wishing to study such subjects as salivary gland disease or laryngectomy and voice rehabilitation must consult other texts. For its intended readership this book is a most authoritative introduction to otolaryngology and has the advantage of a 'user friendly' format enabling quick reference and revision.

Timothy J. Woolford.

ACOUSTIC NEUROMA

Edited by M. Tos and J. Thomsen. Proceedings of the First International Conference On Acoustic Neuroma, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 25–29, 1991. Kugler Publications, Amsterdam/New York. ISBN 90 6299 0851. \$280.

In August 1991, Mirko Tos and Jens Thomsen assembled together in Copenhagen almost everyone who had any interest in Acoustic Neuroma, and a view to express on the subject. The proceedings of this memorable occasion have now been published by Kugler in a 1000 page book, with over 400 contributors. Authorities on basic and clinical research were invited from many fields including otology, neurosurgery, radiotherapy, radiology, audiology and genetics and others. During that delightful and sunny week every conceivable aspect of the subject was identified, dissected and chewed over, until every last ounce of intellectual nourishment had been extracted. To illustrate the diversity of the subject matter, the editors have divided it up into 26 separate sections covering epidemiology, natural history, immunology, genetics, investigate strategies, surgical approaches, the role of stereotactic radiosurgery, monitoring, hearing preservation, facial nerve management, complications, and the specific problems of NF2. Several

main areas of interest were identified. The decreasing role of detailed audiovestibular investigation in the face of MR Imaging was generally agreed although the costs of the latter were still seen by some as a problem that demanded some form of selection protocol. Rate of tumour growth, how best to measure it, and its influence on the timing of surgery was covered well. It is remarkable that there is still no agreement how to measure an acoustic neuroma, some authorities referring to the stated size as that of the intracranial component, others including the intrameatal portion, a difference (of 1 cm) that makes interpretation of surgical results very difficult. It was a matter of regret to the scientific community and the editors that this apparently simple matter could not have been resolved by consensus. The argument about surgical approach seems less acrimonious than it has been, and is now very much linked to the argument about hearing preservation. Sanna in one of the best contributions of the week highlighted the haphazard situation that exists with regard to defining and reporting hearing preservation, another area where the restrictions of time prevented the establishment of consensus criteria. NF2 was recognized as an area of exciting change, with advances in molecular biology, imaging, hearing preservation surgery and in implantable electronics allowing the management to be put on a more promising basis. Postoperative quality of life factors were examined including tinnitus, headache, incomplete vestibular rehabilitation and the likelihood of the patient being able to return to work and it may be that we have been slightly too optimistic in our previously held views.

The book concludes with a series of eight synopses of the most important topics covered, compiled by the moderators of the individual panels. This is a good idea, although some are slightly too succinct to be informative.

In compiling a 'Proceedings' of this nature the editors are very much at the mercy of contributors who may not necessarily want their ephemeral spoken words to be recorded for posterity in written form and may choose not to submit their manuscripts. Tos and Thomsen have by and large been fortunate, but the debate on 'hearing preservation', one of the most lively of the week, has suffered as a result. Otherwise the book is a well balanced reflection of what was said, and is the most up to date and comprehensive account of the subject currently available, allowing for the inevitable advances that have occurred particularly in the field of molecular biology during the run in to publication. Nobody can attempt to write anything about Acoustic Neuroma who does not have this book by his side. As might be expected the volume is lavishly referenced and for that alone would be a valuable possession. It is well and accurately produced, and the standard of the illustrations is generally high.

Richard Ramsden.

TYMPANO-OSSICULAR ALLOGRAFT TYMPANOPLASTY. A MANUAL OF TECHNIQUES

Bernard Ars and Nicole Ars-Piret. Kugler Publications: Amsterdam/New York. 1993.

This is a beautiful hand book of the techniques of partial or total homograft tympanoplasty. This unique concept is the

replacement of diseased and damaged structures within the middle ear by total or partial grafts harvested from Cadaveric donors. This book is a testament to the work of the late Professor Jean Marquet, who single handedly devised, developed and disseminated this technique.

This book was written by Dr Bernard Ars from Brussels and his wife Nicole, who is an Anatomist. Dr Ars was Jean Marquet's first resident and he still undertakes, and actively promotes Homograft Tympanoplasty.

One of my wise mentors said to me that the sensible Surgeon goes to the clinic and sees the results before dashing to the operating room when any new technique is advocated. Those who have had the opportunity to see patients treated by Homograft Tympanoplasty, and have read the published results cannot but be impressed.

Why has the technique failed to gain popularity outside a small area in North Western Mainland Europe? There are several reasons, firstly it does require time spent in the laboratory preparing a number of specimens of various sizes. Secondly, the fears about transmitted viruses have made most Surgeons very anxious about any homografts and finally that this technique takes time and a high degree of Otological skill and care. Herein of course almost certainly lies the secret of its success—mainly meticulous surgery.

This book which is well written and easily read in one sitting, sets out the techniques of this surgery. There is more, however, within each chapter there are surgical hints and tips and I would commend to all Otologists the section on Surgical Management of Cholesteatoma.

It is nicely illustrated with clear line drawings but lacks a bibliography of the results, which is a disappointment.

I commend this book to all Otologists and it should be read by all trainees.

The final place of Homograft Tympanoplasty in the Otologists Surgical Armamentarium is not yet certain, but this book ensures that it remains on the agenda.

David Proops.

ATLAS OF DISEASES OF THE ORAL MUCOSA

J. J. Pindborg. 5th. edition 1992. Munksgaard, Copenhagen. ISBN 8716 10585 0 DKK 700. pp. 400. Illus. 327.

This atlas, already a classic, has been improved and updated mainly by the incorporation of material related to HIV infection. As in former editions the quality of the pictures and their reproduction is absolutely first-class; the book is a pleasure to use.

As with all atlases the drawback is that many conditions look superficially alike and the history and associated symptoms and signs are all important in making a diagnosis which makes the text notes particularly important. Here they are a model of clarity and brevity and contain a wealth of associated clinical information which is right up to date. As disorders of the oral mucosa are a very common early presenting feature of underlying HIV infection, some of them rather distinctive in appearance, it behoves all clinicians who examine the mouth to be aware of those tell-tale features which are so well illustrated here as one would expect in view of Prof. Pindborg's current post at the WHO.