

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