

while the third and fourth, the latter with about thirty pleasing operative drawings, are the most extensive.

Most unusually for a French publication, the anatomical dissections are neither particularly good nor well photographed; the explanatory diagrams might have served just as well on their own. Unfortunately, the text, while more or less covering the literature, is distinctly thin as regards original material; thus, the discussion of parotid tumours invading the infratemporal fossa is based on three patients, while the section on meningiomas (puzzlingly included under pathology of the fossa proper) apparently contains no personal cases.

I cannot comment on the purely surgical aspects, except to say that the dozen or so approaches described and illustrated — which vary from transpetrous to transantral and transmandibular — tend to confirm one's feeling that it is not particularly helpful to think of the fossa as a single entity, even for the sake of a book, rather than in respect of more specific types of pathology. I am not at all sure that most British surgeons would feel it necessary to go through the zygomatic arch to approach a superolateral orbital tumour, as suggested on p. 164.

The index, which contains 67 entries, many of which are in any case section headings, and is much shorter than the seven page list of contents, is quite simply a joke, and not a very good one at that.

Apart from these specific criticisms, the book is handsomely produced, but I cannot persuade myself that the content justifies the expense, especially for the British reader whose French is less than excellent.

Ivan Moseley

DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASTRUCTURE OF NON- NEOPLASTIC DISEASES 1992

John M Papadimitriou John M, Douglas W
Henderson and Dominic V Spagnolo
Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh pp. 728
Price: £200.00

This book, the companion volume of its editors' "Ultrastruc-

tural appearance of tumors" is a profusely illustrated atlas-like work based on the vast experience of its 41 contributors.

The book is composed of 30 chapters containing some technical advice. Its main value lies in several comprehensive reviews and discussions supported by excellent, often amazing, electron photomicrographs. These include the pathology of cell injury (Ch 4); stromal aberrations (Ch 5); the complex field of storage diseases (Ch 6) of great interest to otologists and pathologists alike interested in e.g. the mucopolysaccharidoses affecting the ear and upper respiratory tract.

There are fascinating chapters dealing with the identification of viruses (Ch 8) and other infectious agents such as fungi and bacteria (Ch 9) which would assist any study of the role of microorganisms in infections of the ear and upper respiratory tract. Chapter 13 deals with respiratory diseases, with particular reference to ciliary dyskinesia; the structure of Langerhans's cells in histiocytosis X which affects the temporal bone. The authors of this chapter (from the Brompton Hospital, London) make the general point (I share) that even where electron microscopy may not be essential to diagnosis 'it provides insight into basic disease processes'. This applies also to Chapter 23 on peripheral nerves; Chapter 26 on muscle and Chapter 27 on bone containing electron photomicrographs of highest quality and may provide a clue to the pathogenesis of disease processes affecting the temporal bone and its component tissues.

There is a large number of non neoplastic diseases of the ear and of the upper respiratory tract some of which have been intensively and extensively investigated by electron microscopical methods e.g. the ultrastructure of cholesterol granuloma; the pathogenesis and processes of ossification in tympanosclerosis and otosclerosis (together with the role of viruses in otosclerosis). The essential role of EM in the study of the ultrastructure of the inner ear must not be forgotten.

The price of £200.00 may appear high but not for this essential book which will stimulate further interest in the ultrastructural changes and the pathogenesis of non neoplastic disease processes of the head and neck and in particular of the ear.

I. Friedmann