Diagnostic Techniques in Renal Disease, edited by Robert G. Narins. Pp. 384, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £57.50.

I read this book with enjoyment and profit but I recommend it only to nephrologists trained and in training. It is a year book of monographs not a manual.

There are good chapters on acute renal failure and nephrolithiasis and a very good discussion of serology. The latter emphasizes well the predictive value of tests, an important concept unfamiliar to many. The chapter on urinary electrolytes and osmolality in diagnosis contains good material but some calculations of more theoretical than practical use. Other chapters deal with polycystic disease, diabetic nephropathy, transplant rejection, osteodystrophy and urinary tract infection.

There is no discussion of proteinuria, urine microscopy or radiology. The chapters dealing with isotopes and renal biopsy are very selective in content and for these reasons I do not suggest this book for the general reader. However, it would be a useful addition to the library of any nephrology department.

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Gynecologic Oncology, R.C. Knapp and R.S. Berkowitz. Pp. xi + 500, illustrated. Macmillan Press, London 1992, Hardback price not known.

This multi-author book was written by mostly gynaecological oncologists of the American School who are involved in both the surgical and medical management of their female cancer patients. Although it is aimed at that audience, with many diagrams of operative procedures, there is much that medical oncologists, radiotherapists or pure surgical oncologists could gain from reading it. The first nine chapters deal with basic science aspects with a chapter on gynaecological tumour immunology the most useful because of its clear tables. The differences between cytokines IL-1 to IL-6 are nicely shown. The chapter on chemotherapy in gynaecological oncology by Robert Young is well written but contains the worst example of lack of editorial control. Much of the comments on chemotherapy of ovarian carcinoma are repeated in the separate chapter on ovarian carcinoma whilst it is the only place to find any information on endocrine or cytotoxic chemotherapy for endometrial carcinoma. The next section of seven chapters covers the different sites of gynaecological malignancy in a very comprehensive fashion. The use of italics within paragraphs makes it easy to use this book as a detailed reference book. However, it is not the most comprehensive gynaecological oncology textbook that is available.

There were a few surprising suggestions such as, that patients with confirmed paraortic lymph node metastasis from carcinoma of the cervix should undergo a left scalene fat pad biopsy. I cannot see with current therapy how this information could help the patient. I was surprised at the omission in the chapter on ovarian carcinoma that response to second line chemotherapy is greater if the interval from completing first line

chemotherapy is longer. The chapter on gestational trophoblastic tumours omitted to define persistent disease that required chemotherapy which I suspect fits with an excess of post mole patients in the USA receiving chemotherapy.

The final two sections of the book relate to chapters on the management of complications of disease and treatment and on supportive care of the cancer patient. Despite a scholarly chapter on pain there was no mention of the management of intestinal obstruction other than surgical and the medical management of ascites was totally omitted even from the index. With so many pages on chemotherapy I was also surprised to see no mention of the anti-emetics. Despite these failings I can definitely recommend this book to those who wish to obtain a good understanding of the pathology, aetiology, natural history and treatment modalities especially surgical, of gynaecological cancers.

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Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation, second edition, edited by Alfred G. Stansfield. Pp. 536, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Madrid, New York, 1992. Hardback £95.00.

The first edition of this book, in 1985, achieved very successfully its aim of assisting the general hospital histopathologist in the interpretation of lymph node biopsy sections. This second edition is 20% larger but over half the book is still contributed by Dr Stansfield. These sections are excellent, with a clear, precise and detailed account of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, based on the updated (1988) Kiel classification, and of 'inflammatory and reactive' disorders, including differential diagnoses, and an approach to interpretation of biopsies. Elsewhere, the content remains useful, but although there are now two editors there is some lack of editing and updating; adherence to the chapter headings as well as most of the other authors of the first edition means that some reclassified entities are not relocated and new ones appear in unexpected places. For example, benign mesenchymal tumours such as palisaded myofibroblastoma are found in the curiously-named (but well-written) chapter on 'vascular disturbances', as is Kaposi's sarcoma; and angioimmunoblastic lymphadenopathy is described in detail as an immune disorder, but has to be reprised in the T-cell lymphoma chapter. It would be useful to have in one introductory chapter normal anatomy and immunology with descriptions of the various cell types, their functional interrelationships and immunohistology (now at the end, with a chapter on molecular biology). Fortunately, these problems are eased by the index. The text is as current as one can expect, with occasional 1990 references, and the photomicrographs are generally very good. Overall, this book remains a valuable aid to the diagnostic histopathologist.

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