pedigree of the authors. Perhaps a second edition might make use of other photographs which might be sent in to the authors (no Bartholin's cyst?), with a clearer explanation of those pictures already used. How does a picture of a person apparently performing GIFT beside what looks like a perspex incubator tell the reader that the difference between this and IVF is in the preparation and site of return to the women? Sadly disappointing.

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Foundations of Respiratory Care, edited by David J. Pierson and Robert M. Kacmarek. Pp. 1306, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Edinburgh, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £70.00.

The title of this 1,246 page textbook on respiratory care is appropriate: the text provides the foundations of knowledge of modern respiratory care. As the editors state in their introduction: this book will help to practise respiratory care rationally, safely, and cost effectively. As stated, this text provides the physiology and pathophysiology which compromise the 'bricks and mortar' which the *Foundations of Respiratory Care* are built on. The primary readership for this book will likely be respiratory care technicians and respiratory nurses. It contains more than would be required for trained pulmonologists of background information in basic anatomy and physiology of the lung. To some extent, this text is a hybridization of clinical pulmonary and respiratory care information. The basic anatomy of the heart and the blood vessels is briefly reviewed, there is information on the fundamental cardiac physiology and a succinct treatment of the basics of lung function analysis. Because of the inclusion of rather basic 'preclinical' materials this book is perhaps more suitable for the respiratory therapists. With this target readership in mind the authors also included a single chapter on respiratory diseases in children. Smoking and travel advice for patients with chronic lung disease are covered as well as ethical issues in respiratory care and the psychosocial aspects of critical care. This textbook is astonishingly well referenced with the inclusion of pertinent recent citations. A chapter on drug-induced lung disease mentioned the hypersensitivity reaction to bleomycin but fails to alert the reader to the often fatal synergy between bleomycin and oxygen treatment. The chapters on the methods of the various mechanical modes of ventilation are illustrated with pressure- and volume wave forms, there are detailed schematical drawings and even samples for the proper charting of ventilator/patient interface-related parameters. Overall, this is a very useful and very practical book that can be recommended to anyone working with critically ill pulmonary patients.

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Diagnostic Ultrastructure of Non-neoplastic Diseases, edited by John M. Papadimitriou, Douglas W. Henderson and Domonic V. Spagnolo. Pp. 728. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £200.00.

The book aims to describe cases where electron microscopy is essential for diagnosis or where electron microscopy provides contributory information and increased understanding of most non-neoplastic diseases encountered in diagnostic human ultrastructural pathology. This handsome book is a companion volume to the widely acclaimed *Ultrastructural Appearances of Tumours* by Henderson, Papadimitriou and Coleman. The editors have successfully recruited an international team of 41 experts including eight from the UK. The contents comprises 30 chapters each with a concise and clinically relevant text supported by extensive references which are valuable for further study. The first three chapters are concerned with the techniques of transmission electron microscopy and the diagnostic applications of scanning electron microscopy. There follows six chapters, each covering such topics as the cell, stromal aberrations, storage diseases, prenatal diagnosis of genetic disorders and organisms. Chapter 11 is concerned with tumour-like disorders, an important group of conditions, which often provide difficult diagnostic problems in practice. The rest of the book consists of 18 chapters, each dealing with comprehensive descriptions of the ultrastructure of major systems or single organs.

As you would expect from a publication arising from these two well-known medical centres, the illustrations are of a uniformly high standard. The single most important criterion of success in any atlas is the quality of the illustrations and this is especially desirable in a book containing many monochrome electron micrographs.

With the increasing use of immunohistochemistry and other cell-labelling techniques in recent years electron microscopy has tended to be less used in diagnostic pathology than hitherto. I subscribe to the view, however, that diagnostic electron microscopy should not be regarded as an isolated discipline but a technique integral to surgical pathology. The editors, who are practising clinical pathologists, have successfully achieved this approach in this volume.

It has been estimated that ultrastructural examination can contribute useful information in approximately 1–5% of tumour specimens examined in most teaching hospital pathology departments. Electron microscopy, however, is probably less used in the diagnosis of non-neoplastic diseases, although it has a useful role in renal pathology, muscle disorders, skin pathology and virus diagnosis. Nonetheless I am confident that this book will become a vital bench manual for anyone with an interest in this field. This book should be available in all departments where both trainees and experienced pathologists will find this book valuable for daily reference.

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