Manual and Atlas of Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology, Svante R. Orell, Gregory F. Sterrett, Max N-I. Walters, Darrel Whitaker and Suzanne Le P. Langlois. Pp. v + 238, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £85.00.

Can it be argued that this is not just another pretty coffee table book for pathologists at the wealthy end of the range?

Yes, it can. The illustrations are indeed excellent but so is the text. And the whole enterprise is skilfully directed not only at cyto- and histopathologists but equally at clinicians and radiologists.

An introduction which sets out the authors' philosophy is followed by thoroughly practical chapters on how to do fine needle aspiration (FNA), including when to use airdrying followed by a Romanowski stain and/or alcohol fixation followed by Papanicolaou or haematoxylin and eosin staining, and, by Dr Langlois, Director of Ultrasonography, Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, Australia, on organ imaging for FNA.

The succeeding eight chapters have a common pattern for dealing with the appearances found in aspirates from the head and neck; lymph nodes; thyroid; breast; lung and thorax; retroperitoneum, liver and spleen; male and female genital organs; and supporting tissues (skin and soft tissues, bone). First clinical aspects and indications are discussed and then the cytological findings in specific conditions are described under the headings of 'criteria for diagnosis' and 'problems in diagnosis', with illustrations in colour, together with some comparative histological pictures. These are in black and white, 'where the illustration of cytological features is less dependent on colour', according to the author of the Foreword, Nils Stormby, with which not everyone would agree. Nevertheless this format works very well.

Dr Stormby emphasizes that Sweden, Dr Orell's home country, was the cradle of modern aspiration cytology but its transplantation to Adelaide and Perth has obviously taken well, and this result can clearly be recommended for offices and reporting rooms worldwide against the prevailing competition in every particular except the price. Is the book available in other languages? If not translation might benefit physicians who do not speak English and/or cannot afford this valuable aid to practice and training.

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Manual of Clinical Problems in Oncology, with Annotated Key References. Second edition, Carol S. Portlock and Don R. Goffinet. Little, Brown Spiral Manual Series. Pp. ix + 358. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1986. £9.95 (spiral binding).

This manual is designed to fit in the pocket as an up-to-date practical reference guide for the management of patients with cancer. The authors state they have aimed this book at a wide spectrum of clinicians, from medical students to oncology specialists.

Separate sections cover oncological emergencies, the treatment of the primary cancer, advanced or metastatic disease, the lymphomas and leukaemias, and diagnostic and man-

agement problems. The role of surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, hormones and combined therapies are discussed for the individual malignancies.

The organization is good. The relevant headings are easy to find and clearly laid out in a useful format where problems of diagnosis, treatment and management are reviewed for the individual cancers, and supplemented with references. The bibliography is as up-to-date as a book can be, and fields the main North American series, but British authors seem poorly represented. However, I found it irritating that these references are not annotated in the text so I needed to skim and read all the mini-abstracts to find which author was being quoted. Despite a wealth of detail the narrative remains readable and interesting. There are no diagrams or illustrations, and on occasions these might have helped to clarify some points.

It should be remembered that the views and philosophy expressed are basically North American, and may be too aggressive for the taste of some British radiotherapists. As such I would not always recommend their methods of diagnosis and treatment. In addition, recently introduced chemotherapy agents, such as carboplatin, mitozantrone and ifosfamide, are in common use in the UK, but are mentioned only in passing in references.

This book represents exceptional value. The authors' approach is commonsense and informative. However, although medical students and doctors in training will find this book useful, many sections are too superficial for specialists in the field.

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Manual of Emergency Orthopaedics, Phillip M. Segelov. Pp. viii + 234, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £14.95.

Every casualty officer would benefit by reading this book when starting the job. It contains clear and simple instructions on fracture reduction, plaster application and the management of joint injuries. It emphasizes those situations where prompt and correct action at the outset can make all the difference and there is good advice on warnings to patients and parents. It contains excellent tips on how to look at X-rays and the X-ray photographs are in general of very good quality. There are clear useful diagrams.

In a concise conversational style this book gives good advice on initial orthopaedic management that should fit in with the idiosyncrasies of virtually all orthopaedic surgeons. It will help anyone inexperienced in musculoskeletal injuries and is certainly worth having in every casualty department.

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