
This book takes a novel approach to pathology. The authors have somehow noted the topics raised in recent pathology vivas for the Primary FRCS, put them into alphabetical order, and provided under each heading what they think the examiners would want the candidate to know about each one. This format produces some strange bedfellows, for example, collagen disease, commensal organisms, complement, and congenital disease, can be found on the same double page spread.

What needs to be known ranges from one liners, such as ‘Hepatitis A is mainly of medical significance’, which would obviously go down well at a Reagan press conference, to three and a half pages on irradiation, with four subheadings and five tables.

Many topical subjects, such as monoclonal antibodies, oncogenes, tumour markers, the immunogold technique, are here, but some controversial matters get fairly short shrift, for example, non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas, and some cannot be found in the index at all – parotid tumours do not appear under ‘parotid’, ‘tumour’, ‘pleomorphic adenoma’, ‘mixed parotid tumour’, or ‘salivary gland tumour’. In fact, trying to put myself in the place of a candidate, I think I would ignore the rather good index altogether and enjoy reading the book straight through in the nights between the papers and the viva – the bits I already knew would be encouraging and those I did not might stick, especially the too few biographical footnotes. Who was Zieml-Neelson?

It is nicely produced for the white coat or dressing gown pocket, not particularly user-friendly because it will not stay open at the page, and it has an attractive cover photograph, in which I presume the examiner is the one on the left with the greying sideburns. Which of these topics was under discussion?

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This book provides a practical source of information about nutrition and handicapped children. The underlying theme is that developmental potential can be maximised by the maintenance of good nutrition. The authors from San Diego are dietetic and educational experts, thus the text includes suggestions for nutritional educational programmes applicable in the classroom and individually. The first chapter consists of a basic and readable account of recommended dietary allowances and the factors which affect nutritional needs, the functions of different nutrients and the signs of deficiency states. Food sources are listed and a table giving the contents of different servings at meal times is included, the terminology reflecting the Californian life style. A brief chapter on the interaction of drugs is followed by a section on the evaluation of dietary uptake and nutritional status. Children with developmental disabilities have difficulties in integrating sensory information as well as having problems with the physical mobility needed for handling food. These concepts form the basis for a useful presentation of the interdependence of feeding, speech and sensory modulation and their relationship with the development of sucking, chewing and swallowing. The importance of detailed assessment of an individual child in relation to the underlying pathogenesis of disruptive behaviour patterns is discussed, leading on to advice on the use of specific treatment techniques. Disorders such as vomiting, rumination, constipation and diarrhoea are mentioned in the context of practical suggestions on management; allergies of course are not forgotten. Obesity receives special attention, the author’s weight control programme is described in detail complete with record charts and specimen contracts for parents and participants. A separate chapter on the atmosphere at meal times is devoted to successful school eating arrangements discussing special dietary staff and equipment and menu planning. Management of inappropriate behaviour and dealing with difficult children is illustrated with case studies.

The book ends with examples of ways in which nutritional and dietary management can be expressed within the individual educational programmes (IEPs) which are required by Federal Legislation for all children receiving special education services in public schools. The strategies needed in designing instructional goals, assessment of competence, feedback and review are all outlined. The whole text is enlivened with line drawings and diagrams which even include a teaching wordsearch. A short glossary, a useful index, and a list of American information and support organisations is provided. The book is well presented and will
be of particular use to teachers, therapists and nurses working with handicapped children in schools.

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It is now quite evident that many patients with acute leukaemia and chronic myeloid leukaemia are cured of their disease by a bone marrow transplant from a compatible sibling. Much of this success is due to the therapeutic freedom to intensify chemo/radiotherapy provided by this procedure. However the limited application of allogeneic transplantation has led haemat-oncologists to explore the wider use of autologous bone marrow transplantation (ABMT) to achieve the same result. Although initially viewed with some scepticism the publication of this volume testifies to an ever increasing interest in this approach that has resulted in numerous exciting recent developments.

This edition of Clinics ranges widely in its treatment of this fascinating field. Like other volumes in this series it suffers somewhat from a prolixity of style leading to some repetition and overlap of chapters. In places it seems the authors are uncertain whether a section is to serve as a detailed technical account or rather a concise overview of recent developments in a particular field.

Since autologous marrow is probably of rather inferior quality compared to that from a healthy donor the chapter on cryopreservation techniques and how to ensure optimal stem cell yields is very welcome. This is an excellent introduction to both theory and practice and the technical aspects are well presented. The view that twin transplant results may represent the best that can be achieved from ABMT is put forward in a review of data from Seattle. The possible role of a graft-versus-leukaemia effect (GVL) and the importance of its absence in twin and autologous transplants are discussed here and in subsequent chapters. The intriguing possibility that tumour immunised T-lymphocytes may be beneficial in ABMT and that their potential might be increased by lymphokines is also mentioned.

To purge or not to purge is currently a vexed question among the ABMT fraternity. The contribution of reinfused malignant cells to eventual relapse is unknown and the chapters on pharmacological and immunological cleansing of the marrow in vitro both address this problem. In the former case and in the section devoted to the lymphomas a more concise style with a better use of tables instead of text would have served to clarify a rather bewildering plethora of data. The sections on acute leukaemia are both excellent with appropriate emphasis on the critical evaluation of survival data and their dependence on the interval from diagnosis to ABMT. A more critical appraisal of purging here provides a salutary balance to the previous section.

The failure of ABMT in solid tumour therapy makes fairly dismal reading. It is made clear that ABMT can only be as effective as the anti-cancer therapy that it follows. The short accounts of chronic myeloid leukaemia and the use of monoclonal antibodies in vitro are both quite helpful although the latter concentrates on leukaemic markers leaving the reader little the wiser regarding the current status of immunological purging.

Despite quibbles this is a useful addition to the series and serves to set the stage for future developments rather than providing any firm answers. It is important to realise that the advantage of ABMT over conventional therapy has yet to be conclusively demonstrated for a single condition. It is a sign of the pace of progress in this field that two recent developments, the ex vivo long term culture of marrow to reduce tumour load and the use of peripheral blood stem cells for autografting are nowhere mentioned in this text.

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Each year drug-related illness accounts for a significant number of hospital admissions. Since a large majority of allergic reactions affect the skin the incidence of drug induced cutaneous eruptions probably reflects the risk of allergic drug reactions in general. Any treatise which attempts to record the type and risk of an unwanted side effect is to be welcomed.

Dr Bruinisma’s book, now in its 4th Edition in 14 years, provides a list of dermatoses and the various drugs which induce them. The 124 page soft covered book deals in its first 59 pages with the skin reaction and the drugs responsible and in the following 33 pages names the drug and allies it to its dermatological side effects. The lack of illustrations assumes a degree of dermatological knowledge from the student and the non-dermatologist but in practice I do not feel this detracts from the usefulness of the book as a short quick-guide to eruptions. For a more detailed knowledge of the subject there are 16 pages of references. The price of the book includes yearly supplements until another edition becomes due.

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This book is unique among texts of its own class. The content is as defined by the author in the Preface, ' . . . to indicate to