

appropriate to illustrate important anatomical relationships or to assist in the interpretation of the figures, radiographs and clinical signs. But it is the clinical photographs themselves which deserve particular praise. They are all in colour, are of remarkably consistent quality, and convey a sense of freshness and vitality which has recently become rare. Few would disagree with Frank Oski in his foreword who concedes that while there may not be any true substitutes for clinical experience, this book comes 'as close to being there as any I have ever seen'.

All involved in the study and practice of paediatrics will derive enjoyment and benefit from this volume by virtue of its content, quality, and immediate clinical relevance. Having regard for the wealth of illustration and use of coloured material the price of the book is extremely reasonable although it might prove a little daunting for individuals at the beginning of their careers. Nevertheless it will provide an invaluable addition to departmental, hospital and postgraduate libraries and to them it is commended without reservation.

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Baillière's Clinical Gastroenterology: International Practice and Research. Vol. 1, no. 1, January 1987. Liver Tumours, edited by Roger Williams and Philip J. Johnson. Pp. x+210, illustrated. Baillière Tindall, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, 1987. £15.00 (UK & Irish Republic), US \$25.00 (USA & Canada), £18.50 (all other areas).

This first volume of a new series sets a high standard. Roger Williams and Philip Johnson edit 10 chapters describing the latest work on liver tumours. The section on aetiological factors emphasizes the global role of hepatitis B and discusses the possible mechanisms by which this infection may lead to hepatocellular carcinoma. The clinical features and natural history of liver tumours are well covered and there is an authoritative account of carcinoid and neuro-endocrine tumours by Hodgson and Matin. Mention is made of new treatment approaches such as somatostatin analogues and interferon. The wide range of known tumour markers and their role in monitoring treatment is exhaustively covered by Warnes and Smith. While there are hopeful new advances, alpha fetoprotein and CEA remain the most useful markers. There are sections on imaging techniques, the use of monoclonal antibodies in tumour detection and treatment as well as experimental liver tumours. The role of surgery is lucidly covered by Guest and Blumgart and they repeat their well known views on the risks and disadvantages of carrying out a needle biopsy of what may be a resectable liver tumour. The place of surgery for large, cavernous haemangiomas and the single hepatic deposit of colorectal carcinoma is emphasized but they are rather dismissive of liver transplantation. Roger Williams takes a characteristically more optimistic view of the place of liver transplantation for primary liver cancer and emphasizes

the need for regular surveillance of patients at risk so that tumours may be detected early before extra-hepatic spread has occurred. The role of chemotherapy for primary and secondary tumours is well set out including new developments such as the implantable Infusaid pump. I was sorry to see no mention of advances in immunotherapy.

Overall, the editors have done a worthy job with this volume which I can recommend to both general and specialist readers.

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Cancer in the Neck: Evaluation and Treatment, edited by David L. Larson, Alando J. Ballantyne and Oscar M. Guillaumondegui. Pp. viii+280, illustrated. Macmillan, New York, Toronto, London, 1987. £62.00.

Cancer in the Neck is a specialized volume which concentrates on the major metastatic problem of head and neck cancer, whereas most books on the subject concentrate on the problems created by the primary tumour. It has 3 editors and 47 contributors with sections on 'the biological behaviour of neck metastases', 'evaluation of the neck specimen', radiotherapy, surgery and chemotherapy and a final section incorporating a variety of unrelated topics. The chapters on cellular biology are detailed and interesting but the chapters on evaluation of the neck specimen could have been edited with advantage. The section on radiotherapeutic considerations contains a chapter on the basic principles of radiobiology in Head and Neck Oncology, which although well written and informative is not inevitably required in this volume.

Currently there is considerable debate among surgeons specializing in Head and Neck Oncology, about which type of neck dissection should be performed and specifically as to whether a radical neck dissection can be avoided safely in selected cases and a more conservative operation performed in its place. The last part of this volume is addressed to this problem with clear statements from surgeons with profound experience in this field but with different surgical philosophies and backgrounds. They represent the conflicting views of the Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York and the M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas. This book offers a distillation of their experience and the editorial comments offer guidance and interpretation for the less experienced. The numbers of patients in their series are considerable but the arguments cannot be concluded on statistical grounds, in the absence of controlled trials.

This book is well presented and illustrated; it is of great interest to specialists in the field although some sections are repetitive and disappointing. It is a very specialist book offering a unique collection of experience within it.

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