

make up the usual tally of pathologists dealing with the pancreas. Here therefore is a scholarly work to stimulate interest. The book is based on the authors 30 years experience and covers the whole of pancreatic pathology in a conventional style. The initial chapters are on the normal gland and subsequent chapters work through arterial disease of the pancreas, endocrine disease, tumours, and pancreatitis in all its various forms. The pancreas is not a photogenic organ in black and white and therefore the quality of illustration, especially the gross dissections is a tribute to Dr Cruickshank's industry. It would have been helpful to have some hints on pancreatic dissection at autopsy and the preparation of the specimen.

The scholarly nature of this book for me is reflected in the antiquity of many of the references. For example, referring to acute haemorrhagic pancreatitis Dr Cruickshank writes 'the macroscopic appearances have been well described by Opie (1910) and there is little to be added . . .' Indeed most accounts are given in historical perspective and almost a quarter of the chapters begin with a pre-20th century reference.

The pathology is mostly that seen at autopsy and it is a shame there is not a section on biopsy problems with pancreatic disease. Although I have nothing but praise for this book (excluding its cost) I confess to finding it hard to read. Perhaps this is the learned style and the use, by Springer-Verlag, of two columns of tightly set print per page. This keeps the volume thin but it requires concentration to extract the data required. There is a lack of authoritative works on pancreatic pathology and this is a valuable contribution.

ASHLEY PRICE

Hepatocellular carcinoma by T Nakashima and M Kojiro. (Pp. 267; illustrated; DM390.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1986.

This is a beautiful book, which illustrates the strong aesthetic component of pathology. It represents the authors' accumulated experience of over 400 autopsies on patients with hepatocellular carcinoma, the findings from which are lavishly and expertly illustrated. The quality of the colour figures is outstanding. They cover macroscopic appearances, the results of injection studies and histology. Good use is made of large histological sections and of postmortem angiography, but techniques are not given. There are chapters dealing with the relation of hepatocellular carcinoma to various types of cirrhosis and to infection with hepatitis B virus, with arterial embolisation therapy, and with experimental carcinogenesis and tissue culture. Interestingly, the book spans the centuries by combining the meticulous macroscopic descriptions of nineteenth century pathologists with

the twentieth century techniques of electron microscopy, radiography, and immunocytochemistry.

The classification of hepatocellular carcinoma adopted in the book is derived from that of the World Health Organisation, and is fully explained and illustrated. Interestingly data are presented on the relationship between histological grade and macroscopic tumour spread and size. Unfortunately fibrolamellar carcinoma, which is rare in Japan, is not among the variants discussed although a very similar appearance to this tumour is seen in Figure 2.16. There are 250 references at the end of the book, including some to papers from the mid-1980s. Altogether this is the well produced, attractive volume which should be considered by anyone working in the field of human liver cancer.

PETER J SCHEUER

Liver disease and gallstones: the facts. By Alan G Johnson and David R Triger. (Pp. 109; illustrated; £7.50.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

On reading the title and seeing the size of this book the average postgraduate student might have believed that here at last was a small and authoritative text book of hepatology which might help to propel him forward in his chosen career. Unfortunately, despite its authoritative title it is in fact intended to be read by patients and their relatives, and it is one of a series of nearly 30 books on a variety of medical topics, all produced for the same consumer group.

The volume is written by two academic gastroenterologists, one a surgeon, the other a physician, both with a special expertise of hepatology. Within its 105 pages there are short chapters on methods of investigation of liver disease, gall stones, jaundice, hepatitis, cirrhosis, alcoholic liver disease, cancer etc, and there are more specialised sections on tropical liver disease, the complications of liver disease, and liver transplantation. The style is uncomplicated, the information and advice given is sensible, and though many lay readers might have difficulty in following some parts of the text there are simple line drawings to help with the anatomy and a series of black and white photographs of various aspects of clinical liver disease. One or two of the latter might have a salutary effect on any intending alcoholics!

Whilst aimed at the educated lay reader, one cannot but help comment on how much factual information has been squeezed into such a small space, and that nurses and perhaps the occasional undergraduate medical student would also benefit from seeing this book. As an exercise in seeing what is expected with regard to good communication with patients it would be useful as there is no doubt that books such as this would not be required if the