

Notice

Drug delivery to the lungs

Drug delivery to the lungs will be the subject of a specialist group meeting of the Aerosol Society on 31 October 1989 at Glaxo Group Research, Ware, Herts. Further information may be obtained from Dr SP Newman, Department of Thoracic Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, London NW3 2QG (01 794 0500).

Book notices

Diagnostic Tests in Respiratory Medicine. John Rees. (Pp 240; £19.95.) London: Chapman and Hall, 1988. ISBN 0 412 28380 8.

With the current emphasis on efficient use of resources, this series dealing with the selection and interpretation of diagnostic tests in the medical specialties is timely; and if the other contributors match Dr Rees's achievement the series should be highly successful. Dr Rees provides a comprehensive survey of diagnostic tests in respiratory medicine with detailed coverage of lung function testing and radiology, and shorter sections that include microbiology, immunology, and techniques such as bronchoscopy, pleural biopsy, and needle aspiration of lung nodules. The underlying principles of the investigations are clearly but briefly dealt with in each section and there is a welcome practical emphasis on indications, accuracy, and appropriateness. There is much useful technical advice on practical procedures ranging from arterial puncture to fiberoptic bronchoscopy. I particularly liked the radiology section, which begins with a systematic approach to reading the chest radiograph, proceeds to deal with the common radiological abnormalities, and ends with a brief section summarising the uses of thoracic computed tomography. The book is well illustrated with many diagrams and over 40 good quality radiographs and scans, which may account for its relatively high price. Each section has useful references for further reading and there is a reasonable index. I can recommend this book as a good practical guide to diagnostic tests in respiratory medicine for any doctor training in respiratory and general medicine. Its handy size will allow it to be accommodated in a white coat pocket, perhaps as a counterweight to the ubiquitous filofax.

Granulomas and Neoplasms of the Larynx. I Friedmann, A Ferlito. (Pp 365; £65.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1988. ISBN 0 443 02528 2.

It was a pleasure and indeed an education to review this book. It contains a most comprehensive and well laid out text covering the pathology of almost all recognised diseases of the larynx. It is logically presented and chapters on specific diseases are clear and concise. Each chapter is provided with

up to date references and the index is comprehensive and easy to use. Although clearly aimed at the pathologist the book cannot fail to be of great relevance to the practising otolaryngologist and indeed the first message for the clinician may be found in the preface, with its timely reminder about the inaccuracy that may result from poor quality of surgical specimens and careless handling of biopsy material. The message that it behoves us all to liaise very closely with the pathologist continues throughout the text. As a practising clinician I am not sure whether the lack of colour plates is likely to limit the effectiveness of the book to the pathologist; with that reservation the book is fully illustrated. It would be difficult, and indeed churlish, to pick fault with this textbook. It has two eminent clinical pathologists as authors, who have drawn on a wealth of personal experience supplemented by many publications to provide a very comprehensive account of the pathology of the larynx. It will certainly be of great interest and importance as a reference book to otolaryngologists and, I am sure, to pathologists. It should be available in all ear, nose, and throat and pathology departments, and many clinicians will wish to have their own copy. It can be highly recommended to all clinicians as well as to pathologists.—KPG

Treatment Modalities in Lung Cancer. H Schonfeld. (Pp 248; £90.) Basel: Karger, 1988. ISBN 3 8055 4775 7.

The title of this book is misleading. It is confined to the contents of an international workshop held in Le Havre in June 1987, at which the roles of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and the combination of radiotherapy and chemotherapy in lung cancer were reviewed. No other treatment modalities are discussed. The volume comprises several short communications, which are either short reviews of a particular treatment approach or the results of studies by various groups on a particular aspect of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, or the combination of the two. The initial section deals with mathematical models for assessing tissue sensitivity and resistance. This and the next section, a review of cell resistance to treatment, are of considerable interest in improving our understanding of why treatment so often fails. The rest of the book deals with concurrent, sequential, and unconventional combinations of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in small cell and non-small cell lung cancer. It finishes with a section on treatment toxicity in both the short and the long term. The book is a mixture of short but very up to date reports of the value of a particular sequence of treatment followed by examples of its application in clinical studies. There is much information to be gleaned from this book, though the rapid movement from review to prospective studies makes it a disruptive read. For those actively engaged in the treatment of lung cancer it is a useful and up to date volume with contributions by workers at the forefront of the subject. It is very expensive and perhaps more suitable for an institute library than the personal shelf.—SGS