Renal amyloidosis complicating sarcoidosis

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Coincidence of sarcoidosis and amyloidosis. Chest
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Book notices

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Current Concepts.
Edited by JE Hodgkin and TL Petty. (Pp 316; £23.50.)

This book aims "to provide a state-of-the-art discussion
regarding the diagnosis and treatment of COPD" written by
a team of 23 North American experts and one from the
United Kingdom. The emphasis is on practical management;
many of the chapters are reviews of expected topics such as
definitions, pathogenesis, laboratory evaluation, exercise
training, sleep disorders, drug treatment, and prognosis.
These accounts provide the expected similarities to, and
differences from, UK practice (cost of spirometry $102,
adjusting theophylline dosage for eaters of barbecued food, a
different list of non-narcotic antitussive agents, etc). The
unusual aspect of the book for a UK reader is the space
devoted to less precise areas, such as psychosocial rehabilita-
and psychopharmacology, relaxation techniques and
biofeedback, disability evaluation, sexual problems, ambulatory and home care, and ethical dilemmas. Many of
these topics are managed informally (if at all) in the UK so it
is instructive to read of more formal (even paternalistic)
approaches, even though these are sometimes discussed at
too great length. The editors see the volume as presenting the
increase in knowledge about treatment of chronic obstructive
lung disease during the last decade; though there have been
improvements, there has been nothing remotely comparable
to the changes provided by coronary artery surgery for
myocardial ischaemia. For this reviewer the dominant
impression on putting down the book was disappointment
that over the last 20 years respiratory physicians have not
applied and assessed the few modifying factors we have had
to offer these disabled patients more rigorously; as it is, what
is useful and what is redundant remains uncertain.—NBP

2nd ed. CF Mountain and DT Carr. (Pp 440; £60.) University of

This work represents the proceedings of a conference on lung
cancer. The authors are distinguished in this area of research
and the conference surveys our present state of knowledge,
current controversies, and possible areas of advance. It
underlines the difference between the American and British
approaches to lung cancer. In general, the therapeutic
approach is more aggressive and sometimes a little uncritical.
In the chapter on selection for surgical treatment the five year
survival for stage III tumours is surprisingly good at 30%,
but it is uncertain how patients were selected for resection
apart from staging. Those dying within 30 days of resection
were excluded from the survival figures, which no doubt
improves these. The theoretical sections convey an impres-
sion of the vast amount of experimental work done in
America. Much of it may represent Brownian motion but at
least they are trying, which is a start in improving man-
agement. Any multicentre publication usually contains a
combination of gems and less valuable stones. The section on
current concepts of chemotherapy and radiotherapy for
small cell carcinoma is an excellent review for the clinician
and that on experimental approaches to improve the results
of radiotherapy for non-small cell carcinoma is a model of
clarity of expression. On the other hand, the section on
cellular genes in human neoplasia is written in cipher and is
uncomprehensible. The section on new approaches to using
monoclonal antibodies is four pages long, has 11 eminent
authors, and contains no message. In general, this is a
valuable book for anyone interested in lung cancer, with
something for the specialist and for the person seeking an
overall view of the transatlantic approach.