



Book Reviews

Colour Atlas of Oral Disease, 2nd Edition, 1993. Reprinted and revised 1995. R.A. Cawson, W.H. Binnie and J.W. Eveson. Wolfe (Mosby) £103.50. Slide set £1186.16 (incl. VAT).

OBVIOUSLY ENOUGH this book is not a textbook of oral oncology, but it deals extensively with tumours and tumour-like lesions of the oral hard and soft tissues. It has become widely used by oral pathologists and their trainees, and others, as shown by the demand for a second edition of a book which is by no means inexpensive.

The chapters of particular interest to oral oncologists are likely to be those on odontogenic and non-odontogenic tumours of the jaws, epithelial and mesenchymal tumours of the soft tissues, salivary gland tumours and lymphomas. Also relevant are the sections on premalignant disease and mucosal disease associated with internal neoplasia. These subjects form a substantial part of the text and are outstandingly well illustrated by high quality clinical photographs, radiographs and, particularly, photomicrographs. The latter frequently have accompanying explanatory diagrams. Some of these illustrations are of material rarely or never seen elsewhere. For example, one of them shows a calcifying epithelial odontogenic tumour that has fused with the overlying mucosal epithelium to give an even more alarming mimicry of malignancy than when it was confined within the jaw. Another is of a metastasis which has caused destruction of the normal architecture and complete remodelling of the structure of the mandible. The clinical pictures and photomicrographs of Wegener's granulomatosis and nasopharyngeal angiocentric lymphoma should certainly clarify the ideas of anyone who has suffered doubts about making the diagnosis of these conditions.

Also valuable are the sections on oral diseases, such as red and white lesions, and others which have no malignant potential but are sources of confusion to clinicians and sometimes, pathologists.

The text is concise and keeps to essentials—the authors make no pretence to it being exhaustive—but the illustrations speak for themselves and integrate well the clinical and pathological aspects of the diseases being described.

Also available is a set of slides of the illustrations with relevant sections of the text. Although the price of approximately 250 transparencies seems high, they represent an enormous saving in effort particularly to someone with limited access to the necessary facilities or wishing to supplement their personal collections. They eliminate the cost of technician's time, the time involved in finding the appropriate fields for

photomicrography and almost as important, all the slides are labelled and filed in order for instant access—if only all our material was like this!

However, most pathologists and trainees are more likely to be considering the purchase of the book itself. They can be reassured that it is excellent value for the money and well worth buying.

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Soft Tissue Tumors, 3rd Edition, 1995. F.M. Enzinger and S.W. Weiss. Mosby, St Louis, £160.

THERE CAN be few oral pathologists who do not value highly Enzinger's and Weiss's *Soft Tissue Tumors*. This text must in fact, be so well known that its third edition hardly needs any other praise than to welcome it.

Additions to the latest edition include chapters on molecular biology, cytogenetic analysis, DNA analysis, and the approach to the diagnosis of soft tissue tumours. Nevertheless the descriptions and many excellent black and white photomicrographs of the almost innumerable variations in the appearance of soft tissue tumours must remain one of the features for which this text is so highly valued.

Some idea of how much more information is provided is shown by the increase in the number of pages from 965 in the second edition to 1093 in the third. The number of illustrations has risen from 1540 to 1750 plus 30 in colour.

Mere size is not of course the best guide as to the usefulness of a book but in the case of *Soft Tissue Tumors* the progressive expansion has been used thoroughly to update the text and to include newly recognised tumour entities. It is therefore remarkably good value for the money and an invaluable investment for the pathologist.

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