Book Reviews

Pathology of tumours. R. A. Willis. London, Engl.: Butterworth; St. Louis, Mo.: C. V. Mosby, 1948. Pp. xxiii + 1044. (Illustrated.) $20.00.

This comprehensive textbook on neoplasms is written with clarity and authority, obviously backed by a wealth of practical experience. Many of the conclusions deviate from time-honored and commonly accepted views, but this departure from a simple compilation of opinions is a refreshing feature. Most of the illustrations are to the point and well chosen; the bibliographic references at the end of each chapter cover the field well. Printing of certain references in boldface, indicating the author's preferences, will doubtless lead the student to consult these first. The sections on the comparative pathology of most of the tumors contribute to a fuller understanding of the general subject.

Part I, an excellent review of the general aspects of tumors and experimental carcinogenesis, is augmented by the author's personal opinions on controversial points. It is brilliantly written, clear, and comprehensive. It might have been advantageous to enlarge on this part of the work, making it an independent volume, for some of the chapters in Part II on special tumors are weak—no doubt because of overcondensation. The value of these chapters would certainly have been enhanced for the advanced pathologist if Dr. Willis had drawn more extensively on his own experience to give a detailed treatment of such difficult diagnostic problems as "sclerosing adenomatosis" of the breast and "dermo-epidermal nevi," with particular reference to evaluation of their malignant potentialities.

In discussing bronchial and gastric cancers, the author takes a rather defeatist attitude toward the relevancy of histologic differentiation of these neoplasms. Might it not be possible that sophisticated histologic studies would reveal significant statistical differences in the behavior of tumors of different types which would have practical application in surgical evaluation? Willis argues to advantage in support of his opinions on controversial subjects such as the origin of the cartilage-like matrix of mixed tumors and the transformation of normal into tumor cells. It must be remembered, however, that concepts change from time to time and will remain labile until definite solutions are offered.

Many clinical pathologists will regret the lack of any reference to "desquamative cytology" as a diagnostic method, because at present it is so widely used in handling patients with suspected cancer.

The textbook unfortunately shares the fate of others in being somewhat outdated even at the time of publication. The chapter on testicular tumors, for instance, would have profited by the inclusion of material gained from the recent wide experience of the medical service of the U. S. Armed Forces.

Disagreement with the author in certain respects by no means constitutes disparagement of this excellent and valuable text on tumors; it might even stimulate efforts to prove or disprove certain points Dr. Willis proposes. *The pathology of tumours* will, in all probability, become the favorite reference on tumors for the experienced pathologist and the faithful guide for the student.

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Underwater explosions. Robert H. Cole. Princeton, N. J. : Princeton Univ. Press, 1948. Pp. ix + 437. (Illustrated.) $7.50.

This book grew from the wartime work of the author and others in the field of underwater explosions. Thus, it represents an effort to present publicly, to the limit permitted by secrecy restrictions still in effect, the substantial progress made in understanding this field experimentally and theoretically. The bibliography of 148 items consists largely of World War II reports.

The material is organized and presented from the physicist's point of view. Chemistry and other topics associated with the explosive itself are disposed of in four pages. Similarly, the engineering questions so important in military applications, such as the effect of explosions on nearby structures, are mentioned only in passing. The dominant theme throughout is the underwater explosion as a phenomenon of physics. Underwater acoustics, for instance, is treated only to the extent that it furnishes a first approximation to the explosion.

The chapters fall rather clearly into three groups. The first four chapters present basic information and theory concerning underwater explosions; then come two on experimental techniques; and the last four contain a detailed comparative discussion of experiment and theory.

To scientists, and particularly to engineers, directly concerned with underwater explosions, this volume should be very valuable as a summary of recent work and as an introduction and guide to the original reports. In addition, a large circle of readers in related fields will find it of great interest. For example, the detailed theoretical consideration of the shock wave in water is a rich source of stimulating analogies and suggestions to aerodynamicists concerned with the shock phenomenon in air flow.

Perhaps the widest appeal is carried by the chapters on experimental work: Chapter 5 on measurement of underwater explosion pressures and Chapter 6 on photography of the explosions. Any experimentalist will find here some diverting and instructive reading such as the reference (p. 218) to obtaining a time delay of 4.0 microseconds with a 1″ path difference in primacord fuse.

The editing and production of the book are excellent.

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