BOOK REVIEWS


This monograph has an introduction by Baldwin Lucke concisely setting forth the rationale and approach to the problems of neoplastic interpretation. The author’s own introduction consists of a summation of opinions, major and minor, on the controversial derivatives of the Schwann cells of the peripheral nervous tissue. The multiplicity of cell forms in tumors of peripheral nervous tissue is explained on histogenetic principles, the latter fortified by observations on tissue cultures. The classification of peripheral nerve tumors includes non-neoplastic tumors (e.g. amputation neuromas), true neuroectodermal tumors and multiple-tissue tumors with a nerve component. The latter category groups together such discrete entities as glomus tumor, intraneural ganglionic tumors, neurogenic sarcoma, etc. Neoplasms of sympathetic ganglia are justly separated. Paraganglionic cell tumors—pheochromocytoma and paragangioma are in a separate group. A fourth important group, neoplasms of heterotopic central nervous system tissue is described. The illustrations are ample, including large size reproductions of clinical and gross features. There are numerous clear high-powered photomicrographs, many with striking patterns, including those of tissue cultures. Dr. Stout succeeds, in his differential descriptions and photographs, in dissipating confusions between neurilemmoma (with 19 synonyms listed), neurofibroma and its multiple manifestation—neurofibromatosis (11 synonyms). The mixed-component tumors, such as glomus tumors and cutaneous leiomyomas are only listed, since they are treated in a separate fascicle “Tumors of the Soft Tissues”. Although descriptions are of thumbnail type, as necessary in this atlas format, they serve well as detailed legends for the informative illustrations. The latter approach the clarity of line-drawings and hence can be quickly grasped by the busy clinician as well as the microscopist. At the cost price of $.60, this compact monograph is evidently of broader reference value than an average single issue of most specialty journals.

REUBEN M. CARES.


This monograph features gross and microscopic illustrations of excellent photographic quality judiciously selected and nicely reproduced on a good grade of slick-paper. The authors have utilized a numerical grading of primary brain tumors, based on the recent studies by Kernohan and associates of the Mayo Clinic and related institutions. The biological behavior of tumors and anatomical features are succinctly outlined. The photomicrographs have fully descriptive legends, of universal value to the microscopist. However, the familiar terminology of a number of morphologically characteristic tumors has been subordinated in a new classification. Widely accepted terms are replaced by new designations, e.g., astrocytoma, grades 3 and 4, (why two?) for glioblastoma (spongioblastoma) multiforme. They coin, for certain tumors of mixed neuronal and glial composition, a new name “neuroastrocytoma,” compounding the confusion which they acknowledge exists in the numerous synonyms accumulated in the literature—the ganglioneuroma, or glioneuroma or ganglioglioma, etc. The authors’ studies are based on fairly large series of the several tumor types from their own files with an adequate correlation of clinical and morphologic data. Tables of survival periods, preoperative duration are presented for astrocytomas and ependymomas.

The authors claim that the routine hematoxylin-eosin stain, in practically all cases, is sufficient for accurate diagnosis. They concede, however, that special staining methods are needed, dyes and metallic impregnations for the more complex gliomas. The chapters on