Book Reviews


This book represents the proceedings of an international disciplinary workshop sponsored by the Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Centre, the NCI Bethesda and Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Milan, that took place in December, 1976.

The book is divided into sections which look at basic factors in cellular invasion, the process of metastatic spread, the establishment and distribution of metastasis, immunological aspects and tumour immunity, and, finally, the treatment and prevention of metastatic disease. It is perhaps unfortunate that none of the meeting’s discussion is included in the text, although for some sections there is a summary of the discussion by one or other of the participants. Many of the proffered papers, in fact, were reviews of published work but some data from newer model systems either in vitro or in vivo were also presented.

Overall, this collection of papers represents a good cross-section of work presently in progress in the field of metastasis, both experimentally and clinically.

The introductory chapter “On the Nature of Metastasis” is neither authoritative nor constructive in the context of these proceedings. It is unfortunate that Dr. Day included his own introduction in these proceedings, because it appears to have been based on semantic and quasi-philosophical ideas which in no way set the scene for the ensuing scientific presentations.

These small criticisms apart, this book can be recommended for all scientists and clinicians interested in metastasis as a phenomenon of malignancy.

H. Bush


This volume is based on a symposium held in Brussels in September 1976 in honour of Henri J. Tagnon. Its extensive international cast dealt with individual tumour topics, some from the point of view of chemotherapy alone, others from the point of view of general clinical management, and whilst it makes no claims to comprehensiveness, the papers deal with some of the most pressing current problems. In addition, there are a number of review papers dealing with cancer therapy in a more general sense, with discussion of some of the more controversial issues. The arrangement of the papers does not appear to have followed any specific pattern but there is much here of interest. It is a book to be dipped into to obtain individual workers’ specific viewpoints on important topics rather than a broad review of the current scene.

K. D. Bagshawe


Dr. Winston Evans’ well-known “Histological Appearances of Tumours” first appeared in 1956. It was immediately recognised as an indispensable bench book for the practising and trainee histopathologist, and it has maintained that position ever since. A second edition appeared in 1966, but following Dr. Winston Evans’ untimely death one had sadly assumed that no further edition would appear. It was therefore welcome news that Dr. Ashley had undertaken a third edition—if for no better reason than the impending disintegration, from constant use, of one’s copy of the second.

It is no easy task to update the work of another author, particularly where the book reflects the original author’s individual approach as strongly as this book. This was always more than an atlas of tumour histopathology—Winston Evans was no mere morphologist, and his book was concerned
Recent developments in post-resection intravesical regimens are discussed. For patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer, both laparoscopic radical cystectomy and robot-assisted radical cystectomy have been shown to reduce peri-operative morbidity, while being oncologically equivalent to open radical cystectomy in the medium term. Bladder-preserving strategies entail resection and chemoradiation, and in selected patients give equivalent results to surgery. Classification of bladder cancer is important to determine the appropriate treatment strategy and predict outcomes. Ng CK, Kauffman EC, Lee MM, Otto BJ, Portnoff A, Ehrlich JR, Schwartz MJ, Wang GJ, Scherr DS: A comparison of postoperative complications in open versus robotic cystectomy. Eur Urol. 2010, 57: 274-81.