

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "The Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology—1975"

REFERENCE: Carone, Frank A., (Ed., Pathology) and Conn, Rex B., (Ed., Clinical Pathology), *The Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology—1975*, Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1975, 588 pages, \$25.00

The Year Book series was originated around the turn of the century to make available to the practicing physician a digest of the best of the then-current medical literature. In the intervening years the series has expanded to cover every major medical specialty, several subspecialties, and dentistry. The apparent goal of the Year Book series is to make available to the reader the largest amount of significant medical literature in a particular area with a minimum of reading time investment. The success of the series would seem to indicate that this goal has largely been accomplished.

The pathology Year Book, not surprisingly, is divided into two major sections covering "Pathology" and "Clinical Pathology." While some might suggest that the title of the book and divisions be changed to "Anatomic and Clinical Pathology" or "(Anatomic) Pathology and Laboratory Medicine," the material covered in each section seems to deal very specifically with the two separate fields. The first 323 of the book's 525 pages of text are devoted to "Pathology," with the remaining pages devoted to "Clinical Pathology." The "Pathology" and "Clinical Pathology" sections contain abstracts and editorial comments on nearly 200 and 120 articles, respectively. The articles are well selected and represent a wide number of journals, some of which are not routinely read by the average pathologist. The abstracts are accurate, reasonably well illustrated, and for the most part are a pleasure to read. The editorial comments following each abstract are, on the average, very good, although they are occasionally descriptive rather than analytic in nature.

The arrangement of the "Pathology" section is analogous to that of a basic pathology textbook. A substantial section covering "General Pathology" is followed by twelve subsections covering specific organs and organ systems. Most articles are well chosen and representative of leading articles on their topics. The section on "Forensic Pathology," unfortunately, is extremely brief and the articles are not particularly indicative of progress in the general area of Forensic Pathology. In fact, the second article in this section (Traub, Gadjusek, and Gibbs' article on precautions to be taken during autopsy of presenile dementia cases) might better have been located in another section of the book.

The "Clinical Pathology" section is divided into the major subcategories of clinical pathology. An additional section entitled "Laboratory Data Processing" is included and contains abstracts of seven leading articles in this area.

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There are several points to be made in favor of owning a copy of the Year Book. The first is that a selection such as this enables the practicing physician, laboratory worker, resident, or medical student to cover an extremely large segment of the recent literature in the smallest amount of time. Second, the Year Book contains material which would be unlikely to come to one's attention in any other format. Third, the well-done abstracts can serve as an inspiration to read not only the articles but also to explore sources cited in the articles' bibliography and in the editorial notes following the abstracts.

The editors and publishers of the Year Book series have done an excellent job in bringing so much valuable information together in such a compact volume. The tome slips easily into a laboratory coat pocket, and most of the abstracts are brief enough to be read in just a few minutes of otherwise idle time. The price, unfortunately, seems a bit high, but on a per-year basis actually amounts to no more than the subscription price for a typical journal.