

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Pathology Annual 1987: Part 2*

REFERENCE: Rosen, P. P. and Fechner, R. E., Eds., *Pathology Annual 1987: Part 2*, Appleton and Lange, 25 Van Zant St., East Norwalk, CT 06855, 417 pp., \$65.00.

Pathology, as the study of disease, effectively incorporates a part of all the various subdisciplines of medicine. In a similar manner, forensic pathology is the application of law to the study and interpretation of disease and injury. As any busy forensic pathologist will attest, the practice of this specialty transcends the usual public image of dealing solely with violent deaths, as medicolegal problems are increasingly apparent at virtually all levels of medicine, and it is often the forensic pathologist who has both the accumulated experience and the willingness to address such questions. Consequently, as any good physician is wont to do, the pathologist continues to learn, grow professionally, and adapt to the constantly evolving scope of medicine in a technological age.

Although medical journals of both general and specialized content are vital for up-to-date information access, most of these publications contain primarily short articles, case presentations, occasional topical reviews, and other relatively brief reports. Longer submissions are difficult to assimilate within this format, as space is always at a premium, and a manuscript of greater length forces the deletion or publication postponement of another. Fortunately, the structure of the well-illustrated *Pathology Annual* series is meant to accommodate comprehensive contemporary reviews, as well as provide a forum for extended discussion of a topic of importance. Additionally, the variety of subjects within each volume provides a virtual smorgasbord of pathology, with something of interest to every pathologic subdiscipline, not excepting the forensic science variety.

Within a current issue, Volume 2 of 1987, there are several articles of distinct usefulness with regards to medicolegal problems which may be faced by the forensic pathologist. "Pathology of Human Mesothelioma: Etiologic and Diagnostic Considerations," by Roggli et al., is an excellent summary of currently available diagnostic techniques, and addresses the perennial problem of differential diagnosis of these malignancies through the use of a sequential battery of stains and other procedures. The relationship of these tumors to work related asbestos exposure is of special significance to the medicolegal specialist. "A Review of Adult and Pediatric Post-Transplant Liver Pathology," by Demetrios et al., is especially unique, providing a summary of both complications and the natural histopathologic history of this procedure which is being performed with ever increasing frequency. A suggested protocol for sampling of post-transplant whole liver specimens is completely applicable to autopsy pathology, and provides very useful guidelines. "Application of In Situ DNA Hybrid-

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ization Technology to Diagnostic Surgical Pathology," prepared by Grady et al., succinctly introduces the scope of this burgeoning field to the precincts of surgical pathology; it is a certainty that these techniques will eventually find use within forensic medicine.

The volume contains a wide variety of other subjects, including immunohistochemistry of endocrine neoplasia, neoplasms in immune deficiency diseases, morphology and differential diagnosis of lymph node necrosis, and a very comprehensive review of infant osteochondrodysplastic syndromes. The material and content is certainly at the forefront of contemporary pathology, and would be equally of interest to the resident in training and the experienced subspecialist. The forensic pathologist who wishes to broaden his or her general knowledge base, as well as explore specific areas that have immediate applicability to potential medico-legal issues, would do well to peruse this biannual publication.