

## BOOK REVIEW

Kris L. Sperry,<sup>1</sup> M.D.

### A Review of *Pathology Annual 1988, Part II*

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**REFERENCE:** Rosen, P. P. and Fechner, R. E., *Pathology Annual 1988, Part II*, Appleton & Lange, 25 Van Zant St., East Norwalk, CT 06855, \$65.00, 394 pp.

The editors of the long-running *Pathology Annual* series once again have shown their interest in medicolegally oriented topics with several of the articles in Part 2 of Volume 23, the second issue for 1988. One of the distinct advantages of the *Pathology Annual* format is that authors are free to expand upon specific subjects to a length greater than is afforded in most periodically published medical journals, allowing a much more comprehensive review. The articles in this issue that are of interest to pathologists who practice forensic medicine, either occasionally or full time, are no exception.

The opening article by Tsieh Sun, M.D., addresses opportunistic parasitic infections in patients with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This excellent review elaborates upon not only the extensively studied pneumocystosis, but describes in detail other, less well-known entities, including isosporiasis and microsporidiosis. Although it would seem that these subjects are of more interest to academic, university-oriented pathologists, the burgeoning (and often mobile) population of patients with AIDS means that an increasing percentage of sudden and unexpected deaths that are investigated by forensic science specialists will possibly have one or several AIDS-associated infections, emphasizing the need for their proper recognition.

An especially useful article for pathology residents and practicing pathologists who regularly perform autopsies, and forensic pathologists who do comparatively little pediatric pathology, is that by Ochs et al. concerning perinatal autopsies. The authors state that this article is meant to be a broad overview of the important issues that must be addressed when performing an autopsy upon a fetus or infant that dies in utero, during delivery, or in the immediate perinatal period. Although their summary is not entirely comprehensive in some areas, nonetheless this article is important simply for the fact that perinatal autopsy pathology has been neglected in recent years, to the point where stillbirth and perinatal autopsies are frequently viewed as being more trouble than they are worth. However, in today's overwhelmingly litigious climate, these cases often assume distinct medicolegal significance, and the pathologist who is unaware of all the necessary examinations and procedures is apt to commit errors of omission. The references in this article are particularly useful.

From a purely forensic science standpoint, the article that is clearly worth the price of the volume is by Cohle et al. discussing sudden death and left ventricular outflow disease.

<sup>1</sup>Office of Medical Investigator, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

This excellent and comprehensive review describes in detail all common and unusual varieties of valvular, supra- and subvalvular stenotic and flow-limiting lesions in a logically organized, well-illustrated format. Forensic pathologists have long associated sudden and unexpected death with aortic valvular stenosing lesions, and this article further expands upon such conventional wisdom. The emphasis upon proper identification and characterization of relatively uncommon lesions, such as discrete membranous subaortic stenosis and supra- and subvalvular stenosis, is particularly useful to the pathologist, who must first be able to recognize these disorders to associate them properly with potential lethality. An excellent reference list further reinforces this article's relevance to any pathologist who is currently engaged in autopsy pathology and especially to those who regularly investigate sudden, unexpected, and unattended deaths.