

surgical scientists who need animal models for their investigations. The lack of understanding of species differences can mislead the researcher. An interesting example of this occurred in my field of cardiac surgery with the development of a new surgical procedure known as transmycardial laser revascularization. The purported goal of this operation was to use a laser beam to make multiple transmycardial punctures so that the ischemic myocardium could be perfused directly by the blood within the heart. This goal presupposed the presence of a vast sponge-like sinusoidal system in the myocardium, serving as the run-off for blood coming from the cardiac cavities through the channels created by the laser. A better understanding of comparative physiology would show, however, that although such a sinusoidal system exists in fish and reptiles, it was evolutionarily replaced by the coronary vascular system in mammals. A number of revascularization procedures were developed and promoted on the basis of this misconception.

These 2 volumes are highly recommended as reference books in medical libraries and in research laboratories. For surgeons who wish to gain a deeper insight into the function of organs they are trying to take care of, these rather expensive books can also be of interest.

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**KATZENSTEIN AND ASKIN'S SURGICAL PATHOLOGY OF NON-NEOPLASTIC LUNG DISEASE.** Third edition. Volume 13 in the series Major Problems in Pathology. Anna Luise A.

Katzenstein. 477 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. 1997. Can\$116. ISBN 0-7216-5755-9

The fact that this concise text is in its third edition may appear unusual to readers of this type of book. Its target audience was probably pathologists originally, but its concise, authoritative style will appeal to a much broader audience.

The book comprises 17 chapters, all authoritatively referenced and heavily illustrated. There are numerous tables to illustrate classifications. The first and last chapters are technical; they pertain mostly to the handling and processing of lung specimens. The remaining chapters cover the full spectrum of non-neoplastic lung disease under clinical headings such as idiopathic interstitial pneumonia, pneumoconiosis and immunologic lung disease. Each disease entity includes a concise summary of the most relevant aspects of the disease followed by a more detailed discussion of the pathologic characteristics. The chapter on immunologic lung disease includes a section on the pathologic features of lung transplantation, and the chapter on miscellaneous nonspecific inflammatory and destructive diseases of the lung includes a section on emphysema. Considering their clinical importance, I was disappointed that both these subjects are dealt with concisely but rather briefly. Nevertheless, all the important information is there, as it is for all the disease entities discussed in this book.

This is an excellent reference text, and I can understand why it is in its third edition. It will serve as a quick reference for practitioners of pulmonary medicine, be they thoracic surgeons or respirologists. It will be of particular interest to thoracic surgeons because it contains much more information about some of the clinical con-

ditions that they might encounter in their day-to-day association with respirologists than is found in standard thoracic surgical textbooks. The information is presented in a concise readable manner, which makes this book an ideal companion reference for some of the less common diseases of the lung.

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**YEAR BOOK OF NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY 1997.** Edited by Walter G. Bradley and Robert H. Wilkins. 585 pp. Illust. Mosby-Year Book, Inc., St. Louis. 1997. Can\$106. ISBN 0-8151-1209-2

**Overall rating:** Very good

**Strengths:** A broad survey of developments in neurology and neurosurgery in 1995

**Weaknesses:** Some neglect of the scientific basis of clinical neuroscience

**Audience:** All practising neurologists and neurosurgeons

This year book is published in cooperation with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. The 18 chapters devoted to neurosurgery have all been edited by Robert Wilkins, the neurosurgeon editor, whereas the 18 chapters devoted to neurology have been edited by 18 neurologists. All the articles chosen were published in 1995.

Most of the journals surveyed are purely clinical, although a paper from *Cell*, elucidating the genetic basis for I form of spinal muscular atrophy is included. This landmark identification of "neuronal apoptosis inhibitory protein" was achieved in Ottawa in the