

Book Reviews

A. Valavanis, O. Schubiger, T.P. Naidich

Clinical Imaging of the Cerebello-Pontine Angle

Springer, Berlin 1987
IX + 202 pp.; DM 198.-
ISBN 3-540-16553-3

The present monograph is based on the findings and observations made in 275 lesions of the cerebello-pontine angle (CPA). All of the cases were discussed in detail with the referring physicians to understand the patients' symptomatology, anatomic relationships of the various tumours to the surrounding osseous foramina, cisterns, vessels and cranial nerves. These detailed and accurate studies resulted in a very instructive manual, incorporating computed tomography (CT) anatomy and techniques for evaluation of the CPA, the general principles for CT diagnosis of CPA lesions, magnetic resonance imaging, anatomy and application for CPA tumour diagnosis. Excellent illustrations are completed by a well-written concise text and an elaborate list of references. This book is recommended to neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuro-radiologists and ear-nose-throat surgeons as well as to ophthalmologists with special interest in this field.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel

J.M. Bernstein, P.L. Ogra

Immunology of the Ear

Raven Press, New York 1987
XVII + 515 pp.; SFr. 165.55 / US \$ 95.00
ISBN 0-88167-270-X

J.E. Veldmann

Immunobiology, Histophysiology, Tumor Immunology in Otorhinolaryngology

Kugler Publications, Amsterdam 1987
XXI + 513 pp.; DFL 240.00 / US \$ 120.00
ISBN 90-6299-029.0

J.E. Veldmann, B.F. McCabe

Oto-Immunology

Kugler Publications, Amsterdam 1987
XII + 196 pp.; DFL 150.00 / US \$ 75.00
ISBN 90-6299-033-9

The simultaneous publication of three titles with a largely identical content on the international medical book market (two of the titles are indeed from the same publisher) proves that the topics dealt with are of great scientific and clinical interest in specialist circles. In this case, the topics comprise the immunobiological bases of diseases of the middle and inner ear.

The first book 'Immunology of the Ear', edited by J.M. Bernstein and P.L. Ogra, is subdivided into three parts, namely: Basic science and structure of the ear; Immunobiology of the tympanic membrane and middle ear, as well as Immunobiology of the inner ear. Under the first section, basic science, eminent authors comment on the immunology and immunopathology of the pharyngeal and palatal tonsils, the lymphatic tissue and the mucosal system; furthermore, the pharmacological mediators of inflammation are dealt with. The section on the structure of the ear treats the functional anatomy of the middle ear and inner ear as well as the immunobiology of experimental tympanoplasty.

In the second part, immunobiology of the tympanic membrane and middle ear, first of all familiar experimental data on mucosal alterations in the middle ear after closure of the Eustachian tube are discussed, and a review of the bacteriology and virology in inflammatory middle ear diseases is presented. Finally, the specific immunopathology of cellular changes in inflammatory middle ear diseases is commented on.

In the third part, immunobiology of the inner ear, definite mention is made of autoimmune diseases of the inner ear. Only the contributions of J.P. Harris and A.F. Ryan made the more reasonable reference to 'immunopathology'. In this section, animal models are described which provide indications of an immu-

nopathomechanism in inner ear diseases. Furthermore, otological manifestations in systemic immune diseases are discussed.

The two other books, 'Immunobiology, Histophysiology, Tumor Immunology in Otorhinolaryngology' and 'Oto-Immunology', published by Kugler in Amsterdam (both with the same editor), have largely the same authors and treat essentially the same topics. 'Immunobiology, Histophysiology, Tumor Immunology in Otorhinolaryngology' is the Proceedings of the Second International Academic Conference on Immunobiology in Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Laryngology, Utrecht, August 26th to 29th, 1986. Five topics, namely: Histophysiology and oto-immunology; Histophysiology and immuno-biotechnology in otology; Mucosal defense system, and Tumor immunology of head and neck, are treated by well-known authors. From this, a compilation of topical statements, which reveal interesting divergences in the interpretation and definition of this topical theme, results. Regrettably, the lively and informative discussion is not reported. 'Oto-Immunology' does not afford any more extensive information than 'Immunobiology, Histophysiology, Tumor Immunology in Otorhinolaryngology', which was also not expected at present. The

reproductions of articles with the same wording, identical figures from identical authors in both books should have been avoided by the editors and by the publisher. Consequently, it is not necessary to compare the information between the two books from Kugler.

Above all, I should like to recommend the interested reader the book 'Immunology of the Ear', edited by J.M. Bernstein and P.L. Ogra, since it reflects the most precise current information with simultaneously reliable and critical interpretation of the most important findings of recent years. 'Immunobiology, Histophysiology, Tumor Immunology in Otorhinolaryngology', edited by J.E. Veldmann, provides some additional detailed information and can serve to round off the present state of knowledge completely. 'Oto-Immunology', edited by J.E. Veldmann and B.F. McCabe, is just as superfluous on the scientific book market as the problematic creation of the term 'oto-immunology'.

The reader will be critical enough to recognize that the term 'autoimmune disease of the inner ear' is still to be used with the greatest caution in view of the scientific and clinical data available today.

W. Arnold, Lucerne