

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

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*Review Editor*

**Histopathology of the Skin, Fifth Edition,** Walter F. Lever, M.D., and Gundula Schaumburg-Lever, M.D. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford/London/Edinburgh/Melbourne, 1975. (793 pp; £36.40)

"Lever" has been for better or worse, the basic bible of cutaneous histopathology in this country since the publication of the first edition in 1949. Each succeeding edition expanded on the preceding one by the addition of newly available information. The 5th Edition, following 8 years after the 4th Edition, is a complete rewrite of the entire text and includes, in addition to 386 light microscopic illustrations, 50 electron microscopic plates.

The contents are divided into 33 chapters covering the field of dermatopathology from the basic clinical approach of the teaching and practicing dermatologist. Each lesion is described clinically and then histologically in a concise fashion, followed by histogenesis and differential diagnosis. The photomicrographic illustrations in both black and white and in color are uniformly excellent. The bibliography at the end of each chapter is complete and contributes substantially to the overall value of this volume as a source book for basic reading in the field of skin pathology. The electron microscope plates are a welcome and much needed addition to this volume but, they are, unfortunately, grouped together at the end of the book rather than integrated into the text at the point where the electron microscopy of a given lesion is described.

In this text, as in all other books pertaining to cutaneous pathology, the basic orientation is from the clinical lesion to the microscopic picture with pathogenesis of the lesion given as an afterthought or appendage. While I have no quarrel with the importance of the clinical picture (gross pathology) in helping to bring the histologic pattern of disease into proper focus, the ultimate textbook of skin pathology will, some day, start with pathogenesis and arrive at a comprehension of the microscopic picture as a logical consequence of the mechanisms producing the disease state. We are beginning to get close in our understanding of the bullous diseases. The so-called "parapsoriasis" group of

dermatoses represent the fuzzy end of the conceptual scale.

Until that time arrives, "Lever" will undoubtedly continue to be the bible. It should be handy on the desk of every pathologist and dermatologist who reads skin biopsies and it is required reading for dermatology residents.

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**Delayed Hypersensitivity, Second Revised Edition,** J. L. Turk, M.D. Elsevier/Excerpta Medica/North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1975. (332 pp; Dfl. 85.00, \$35.00)

This monograph is the 4th in the series entitled "Frontiers of Biology." The stated objective for each edition is to provide an advanced, fairly complete, and objective presentation of concepts, theories, and experimental data on a restricted topic aimed at the graduate student or research worker in an associated field. Up-to-date references and quick publication are essential in fields which are as rapidly changing as immunology. This volume clearly meets these stated objectives. It covers the field of delayed hypersensitivity in a comprehensive manner in 11 well-referenced chapters.

One of the few shortcomings is the limited number of illustrations (pictures and graphs) in relation to the abundant text. Some knowledge of the language of immunology is necessary for complete comprehension. This is definitely not a primer but rather an in-depth appraisal of a single area. Topics in addition to classical delayed hypersensitivity (tuberculin-type) include tolerance, transfer factor, homograft rejection, immunodeficiency states, immune suppression, and autoimmunity. Emphasis is placed more on laboratory observations than on clinical phenomena, making this book of greater value to the investigator than to the clinician. The coverage is quite comprehensive and only those with serious interests would be willing to read the book "cover to cover."

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