

Skin and Aging Processes. By Barbara A. Gilchrest, M.D. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, 1986 (120 pp, \$75.00).

This book by Barbara Gilchrest, M.D., represents the first of its kind; it is the first time that an experienced dermatologic clinician and investigator has put together in one source the expected and pathologic alterations in human skin as it ages. This book is very well referenced and the discussion covers current information on the basic biology of aging of the epidermis, the dermis and its components, as well as diseases of the skin that are more common in the elderly. The strength of the book lies not so much in the clinical descriptions and therapy (there are many other sources for that), but in the correlation between the basic biochemical and physiological abnormalities and the clinical presentation of disease.

Diseases that are discussed, such as pemphigoid, pemphigus, porphyria cutanea tarda, and others, can be found in many other excellent sources. However, the discussion of premature aging syndromes such as Werner's, Rothmund and Cockayne is treated more thoroughly here than in most clinical texts.

Diagnostic Electron Microscopy in Practical Dermatology. By Judit Daróczy, M.D., C.Sc., and István Rácz, M.D., C.Sc. Akadémiai Kiado, Budapest, 1987 (214 pp. \$48.00).

Electron microscopy is now a reliable and useful method for studying tissue structure, especially in the field of dermatology where tissue is so readily accessible. In this book, the authors describe 50 cases of various skin and connective tissue diseases. With each case, they present a clinical history and photo, light and electron microscopic findings, and references. There is no specific order in which the cases are presented and the book would be easier to use if there was some organizational plan to the diseases they discuss. Certain diseases in the text, especially the Sezary syndrome, lichen amyloidosis, and systemic lupus erythematosus, are particularly well-detailed and documented.

Overall, the book attracts the reader's attention to the usefulness of this modality in the diagnosis of numerous skin conditions. The authors have pin-pointed practicing dermatologists, internists, and

Vascular Birthmarks. Pathogenesis and Management. Edited by Terence J. Ryan and George W. Cherry. Oxford University Press, New York, 1987 (203 pp, \$59.00).

This monograph on vascular birthmarks is produced by one of the world's authorities on vascular lesions of the skin, Terence J. Ryan. It is a multi-authored contribution that is well referenced throughout.

I was disappointed that this book was not published with color photographs which would greatly enhance any book on vascular birthmarks. Even some of the black and white photographs appear to be reproduced from other publications and are of inferior quality.

I was greatly impressed by three chapters. The chapter by Brenda Moroz was delightful. Her vast experience in the diagnosis and management of vascular birthmarks is presented to the reader in a well-organized fashion. Any reader who has cared for even a few patients with vascular birthmarks will appreciate the opportunity to read this section and to learn some of the clinical pitfalls that may be encountered. Similarly, the chapter on laser therapy is quite readable and combines the "Hands on" experience of Dr. Pasyk with the theory of laser therapy. Some of the "do's and don't's" on the use of the argon laser are invaluable. Dr. Cherry's chapter, which includes a very succinct review of surgical treatments for hemangiomas and portwine stains with particular attention to disadvantages and difficulties, is greatly appreciated.

Other portions of the book are less palatable to this reader. I am a

The most fascinating material included has to do with Dr. Gilchrest's discussion of aging, the theories of aging, and age associated changes in normal skin. She then relates these changes to some of the more common diseases in the elderly, such as xerosis, providing rationale for emollient therapy.

Skin cancer is discussed and the best portions of this chapter are those relating to risk factors, including the effects of aging on DNA repair and the epidemiology of skin cancer. Dr. Gilchrest does discuss therapy of skin cancer but not in sufficient detail to guide the physician faced with a specific patient.

In summary, this is an excellent text, and will remain a superb sourcebook for all physicians interested in cutaneous aging.

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pathologists as those likely to have an interest in the book. They also state that the electron microscope has been accepted as a diagnostic and research tool and that no textbook on the subject has appeared. Though this is not the case, the book *Diagnostic Electron Microscopy in Practical Dermatology* is a welcome addition to the growing list of such books; i.e., *Skin Pathology by Light and Electron Microscopy* by Hasimoto and Niizuma; *Electron Microscopy in Human Medicine* by Johannessen and Hashimoto; and *The Clinical Use of Electron Microscopy in Dermatology* by Zelickson.

The authors stress the need for practicing dermatologists to know how to use the electron microscope as a diagnostic tool in clinical dermatology. If they have made the practitioner somewhat more aware of the latter, the book will serve a useful purpose.

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bit confused by the proposed staging of strawberry hemangiomas in Chapter 1, Table 1.2. Stages III, IV, and V overlap so much that they probably should be considered a single stage. I cannot understand why a number of vascular lesions that are not birthmarks are discussed in considerable detail and why pyogenic granulomas, senile angiomas, and other acquired vascular conditions are included in a treatise on vascular birthmarks. I find Chapter 4 on the Clinical Relevance of Abnormal Cutaneous Vascular Patterns and Related Pathologies to be almost unreadable. The short, choppy sentences devoted to an encyclopedic variety of vascular conditions indicate to me that the author attempted to include too much information. The result is a very confusing section. I am a bit confused as to why a special chapter is devoted to hemangiomas of the hand and forearm and not to hemangiomas in other anatomic locations. Although throughout several chapters the hemangiomas on the tip of the nose are discussed in some detail, they are not dealt with in a separate section.

Overall, the value of this text lies in its excellent references, which can be readily obtained, and in the experience of some of the authors. As a reader, I wish that this monograph had been limited strictly to vascular birthmarks and that it included color photographs.

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