Differential Diagnosis in Dermatopathology II. By A. Bernard Ackerman, M.D., James L. Troy, M.D., Leslie B. Rosen, M.D., Sethep Jerasutis, M.D., Clifton R. White, Jr., M.D., and D. Friday King, M.D. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, PA, 1988 (202 pp, $98.50).

In 1982 Ackerman, Niven, and Grant-Kels co-authored Differential Diagnosis in Dermatopathology. Seven years later, Ackerman et al have prepared a second volume with an additional 45 sets of disorders which are carefully compared and contrasted. This beautifully organized and illustrated book follows identically the organization of the first volume. The conditions compared vary from the common (guttate psoriasis vs seborrheic dermatitis) to the rare (sebaceous vs sebaceous carcinoma) and reflect true problems in the differential diagnosis of skin disorders. Each set of diagnostic problems includes two matching, numbered columns of differential microscopic features. The facing page of color illustrations includes a clinical photograph and low, medium, and high magnification photomicrographs for each condition in matching columns. The illustrations have been carefully matched for color and magnification. Readers have been added to the illustrations to show the salient histologic details. This tabular comparison is followed by approximately 1.5 pages of text describing the differential features. As stated by the authors, "No bibliography accompanies any of the 45 sections because the data presented here are our own." There is an extensive glossary and the book is appropriately indexed.

The concept of a detailed clinicopathologic comparison between sets of diseases with similar histologic features is innovative. The comparisons reflect the diagnostic dilemmas that dermatologists and pathologists frequently face in their practices. The comparisons are succinct and easily readable. The excellent quality of the illustrations adds to the pleasure of reading this book. The glossary is informative and colorful. For example, it is pointed out that iris lesions are named for Iris, the Greek goddess of the rainbow, and Langer charted "Langer's lines" by piercing the skin of cadavers with an awl.

In practice, the differential diagnosis of a disease often involves more than two conditions. Even if one learns to distinguish atypical fibroxanthoma from squamous cell carcinoma with spindle and round cells, the possibility of melanoma with spindle cells may still exist. The tabular listing for each set of conditions lists as many as 20 sets of differential features. As some of these features are more important than others it would be helpful to highlight two or three of the most useful features for each condition. The 1.5 pages of text for each set of disorders wastes a half page, which is left blank. Some selected references would fill this space in a useful manner. Dull pink globules (Kamino bodies) are not included on page 124 among the "sine qua non for diagnosis of Spitz nevi," although they are listed in the tabular presentation on page 122.

Overall, this is a useful, innovative book that is esthetically pleasing. It contains much information and is recommended for physicians with an interest in dermatopathology.

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In research reports describing experimental work, which might be grouped under the general heading of wound repair, the relationship of the work to healing often seems quite distant, and such reports are published in many different journals. This volume provides a forum for a wide range of original studies related in one way or another to wound healing, mostly in somewhat abbreviated form, so that supporting data are provided to establish points, but detailed rigorous data are, in most cases, published elsewhere. The editors have included studies or brief discussions on signaling mechanisms, oncogene expression, and growth factors (including EGF, TGF alpha, TGF beta, PDGF, FGFs, and IGF-1) in cell culture or wound healing models in the initial chapters. Several chapters on the role of T lymphocytes and macrophages, proteinases, and endothelial cells extend the range of the work discussed to immunologic mechanisms and angiogenesis, and discussions of energy metabolism are also included. Contraction of collagen lattices, the roles of fibronectin, and fibroblast migration are discussed. Finally there are some attempts to apply clinically some of the agents under consideration.

Several different models of wound healing (e.g., subcutaneous sponges, hollow chambers containing growth factors) are described, and the studies and brief essays give a useful overview of the work of many laboratories. Because the scope of the work described is quite wide, coverage is necessarily incomplete; also, the quality of the studies described is quite variable. Nevertheless, the symposium provides a useful survey of the breadth of work which pertains to wound healing and provides useful reference in many different areas related to wound healing, both basic and clinical.

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