

PREFACE

What is the use of a book', thought Alice, 'without pictures or conversations'.

Lewis Carroll

Any artist will tell you that in drawing objects, you cannot ignore the spaces in between. The picture ceases to exist when only one aspect is viewed in isolation. Musical pieces composed entirely of notes and without pauses would be nothing more than a noise and an irritation. Yet when it comes to teaching, we may ignore this fact and fail to put our own specialty into the context of the whole curriculum.

Over the last decade, there has been a trend towards a more integrated approach to medical education. We are delighted that such an approach, which we have always used in our teaching, is now widely adopted in the UK and abroad.

Our aim in this book has been to create a tutorial on the mechanisms of disease over a background of history, science and clinical relevance. The goal is to give the student a sense of belonging to a movement, the movement from past to present and from laboratory to patient.

This book has been written in the hope that the student will read the text fully and at leisure. This not only contains detail about the disease processes but also historical anecdotes and clinical scenarios. The cartoons are intended to amuse as well as illustrate the importance of certain topics, and we sincerely hope that

students reading the book will be able to shed the dull, dreary image of histopathology that they all seem to be born with. Pathology is one of the most fascinating and fun subjects students are likely to encounter during their undergraduate training. If you understand the basic principles then the interpretation of clinical symptoms and signs, the rationale behind investigation and treatment and the unravelling of complex cases becomes more logical. Time spent building a framework of mechanisms will assist your clinical practice.

To help you with this, we have produced a companion volume called *Pathology in Clinical Practice: 50 Case Studies*. These are designed to help you to use your pathology knowledge in clinical settings by taking a clinical presentation, such as you might come across on the wards or in a case-based learning tutorial, and to pose you a number of questions, then guide you with the answers. This is divided into sections based on symptoms, signs, investigation, patient management and complex cases. It helps you to add clinical information on to the basic science and to recognize some of the processes of clinical reasoning that you must master. We hope that you will also find it stimulating and fun.

This pair of books is primarily intended for undergraduate medical students, but should also be useful to students of dentistry, human biology and other health professions. Postgraduate students studying for pathology or surgical exams may also wish to consult these books.