Lysosomal Storage Disease: Biochemical and Clinical Aspects

This is an excellent book which provides an up to date and comprehensive account of the lysosomal storage disorders. There are general chapters on the diagnosis, the genetics, and the treatment of these conditions with chapters on the individual groups of disorders including the sphingolipidoses, the mucopolysaccharidoses, glycoproteinoses, mucolipidoses, acid lipase deficiencies, and glycogenesis type II. The complex biochemistry is clearly presented together with sections on the clinical phenotypes, pathology, diagnosis, and the genetic aspects.

This book will be useful for all those who are concerned with patients with lysosomal storage disease, both clinically and in the laboratory. It is up to date with some references published in 1985 in the bibliography.

My only minor complaint about this book is that it is not really as useful as it might be if you do not already know the diagnosis. Thus for those who are faced with a patient who might have lysosomal storage disease, it would be quite difficult to work out which of the disorders are likely candidates if you did not already have a working knowledge of the various conditions. The simple addition of a table of presenting symptoms and signs, for example, corneal clouding, with a list of the disorders that might be responsible, would be very useful. In addition to this, the table might include the presence or absence of vacuoles in white blood cells and whether the characteristic cells are present in marrow. All this could save time for the patient and unnecessary expensive laboratory tests. Despite this, the book is a useful source of information and very readable. I can certainly recommend it.

J V Leonard

Planning for a Healthy Baby: A Guide to Genetic and Environmental Risks

Professor Goodman, like so many other practising clinical geneticists, believes that prospective parents deserve help to plan for a healthy baby and he has produced an attractive, lucid, and extremely informative text to meet this need. He adopts a question and answer format and in 260 pages manages to deal with 400 items on genetic and environmental risks in pregnancy, all reputedly based on his day to day clinical experience. These cover basic facts relating to teratogens and maternal illness and include descriptions of some common birth defects. There is good coverage of simple genetics with helpful explanations of modes of inheritance, chromosomal abnormalities, and common genetic disorders. The section on diagnostic and therapeutic procedures is particularly useful. The author’s brief look into the future reflects a mature concern and awareness of normal parental fears and attitudes.

Will it suit the audience to whom it is addressed? The answer has to be a qualified yes. It should be