Book Reviews


Peritoneoscopy has become a universal method of examination which has proved extraordinarily useful particularly in the diagnostic of diseases of the liver. As all other endoscopic methods also peritoneoscopy depends to a large degree on the experience of the examiner. It is therefore rather astonishing that modern literature contains only a few manuals dealing with this topic and designed to facilitate the establishment and estimation of the findings also for the beginner or less experienced practitioner. The ‘Atlas of Peritoneoscopy’ compiled by Beck et al. is a work which is well constructed to fill this gap.

In the introduction the authors give important data about the development of peritoneoscopy and discuss the laparoscopic equipment and its performance and use, counterindications, laparoscopic photography and the problems of the estimation of peritoneoscopic pictures on the basis of their own rich experience, gained from over 10,000 peritoneoscopic findings on colour photographs. The first chapter describes peritoneoscopic orientation in the abdominal region and the use of the singular parts of the peritoneoscopic equipment in situ, including liver-biopsy. The other nine chapters contain in their first part descriptions of peritoneoscopic findings, which are documented in the second part of the respective chapter by colour-photographs with detailed captions. In this way the peritoneoscopic pictures of the gallbladder, the liver, the spleen and of those parts of the alimentary tract and of the genitalia which are visible in peritoneoscopy are discussed, both in their normal and pathologically changed state. With the intention not to duplicate Wepler’s and Wildhirt’s work ‘Clinic Histopathology of the Liver’ only macroscopic findings are given.

Beck’s and his collaborators’ ‘Atlas of Peritoneoscopy’ is an outstanding manual of this method of examination. It will give satisfaction to the experienced peritoneos-copist and be of indispensable assistance to beginners and less experienced examiners. The book is exclusively completed and does credit to the reputation of the Schattauer Publishing House.

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