

BOOK REVIEW:

Dhom Georg: Geschichte der Histopathologie.

Springer, Heidelberg, Berlin, New York, 2001, ISBN 3-540-67490-X, 149,- US\$

The history of histopathology is without any doubt closely associated with the progress of medicine at the beginning of the so-called technical revolution. It reflects to the first steps in detection, understanding, and classification of nearly all diseases. Histopathology still remains the basis of disease classification even in our days, despite all progress and new insight into the subcellular and genetic level of our body and its poisttial malfunctions. I have read this book with great interest and pleasure: It has its roots in a profound study of the work of our ancestors and their publications. The text is easy to read, and well to remember, as not only blank facts are described, but, in addition, several humorous episodes are given. Furthermore, the author focuses on details of specific circumstances and "environmental conditions" which had influenced the work of the ancient histopathologists. The book covers the period between 1771 until 1950, and describes the first steps in histopathology starting with Francoir Xavier Bichat, and the early French and German school. Specific aspects of gynecohistopathology and dermatohistopathology are added. A bibliography of the pioneers in histopathology is included.

The textbook is an interesting and well illustrated book which contains numerous information of this important issue. Without any hesitation it can be recommended to all colleagues who want to take a look into the roots of our daily work.

Klaus Kayser, MD, Ph.D.