With this textbook and atlas, Professor H.F. Nauth has presented an excellent monograph of gynaecological cytology. Current knowledge on cyt morphology of the female genital tract is discussed in great detail and critically reviewed. Sound diagrams and over 700 superb color photographs illustrate the text.

Cytological knowledge of pure historic interest has been omitted. Instead, important new information on modern diagnostic procedures has been included. This actualization has created a textbook that excels by its logic, clarity, and relevance for the practice. The text is unambiguously organ-specific, straight-forward, and comprehensible. The work has the further advantage that the didactic presentation of morphological connections is surprisingly easy to understand.

The synoptic approach to cytology and histology is of special importance for the understanding of physiological and, in particular, pathological connections. The concept of including a detailed presentation of supplementary diagnostic methods—such as phase contrast cytology, endoscopy, ultrasonography, DNA cytophotometry, thin-layer cytology, HPV analysis, and automation—is quite new for a textbook of cytology. Furthermore, the clinical/colposcopic correlations are of utmost importance for the gynecologist, in the same way as the cytological/histological comparisons are important for the pathologist. These correlations and comparisons lead to the essential final decision to opt either for a less invasive therapy or for a more radical therapy of female genital carcinomas and their precursors. This approach reflects the author's long-term experience as a practicing gynecologist and clinical cytologist.

Problems of differential diagnostics have been presented and critically analyzed in a special chapter. A special section is dedicated to quality assurance. The nomenclature corresponds to the Munich as well as the Bethesda classification in its most recent modification of 1997. The reference section lists publications relevant for each topic.

With this book, both author and publisher scored a big hit—last but not least due to the high standard of graphic design. Gynaecological Cytology by H.F. Nauth promises to become an important up-to-date standard textbook. We highly recommend this book to cytological laboratory assistants, clinical gynecologists, and pathologists—from the beginner to the advanced.

Prof. M. Hilgarth
Prof. G.L. Wied