Cancer and Workplace Chemicals. JH Duffus. HHSC Handbook No 17. (Pp 75 + 8 tables; £15.00.) 1995. ISBN 0-948237-26-0.

This is a small, short book with a spring binding that fits comfortably into a lab coat pocket. It reviews "current thinking relating to the role of workplace chemicals in causing cancer and how it relates to the regulation... (of) carcinogens (in the workplace)".

Its layout is easy to follow and the text is easy to read. Large print ensures that all details relating to numerous lengthy and important directives are readily appreciated. There is a good list of references and a workmanlike, but not exhaustive, glossary of terms relating to carcinogenesis. The tables given are similarly clearly presented and easy to follow. This clarity of style ensures that the book can be used for quick reference. It suffers from not listing the chemicals covered in a glossary or all of them in its index.

Probably because of its small size, the text is quite general when describing mechanisms of carcinogenesis but nevertheless is nicely informative for undergraduates or for just dipping into. The section on classification of carcinogens is worth reading if only to remind oneself of the problems in this area and national differences.

The heart of the book is the coverage of the legislation controlling the use of carcinogens and related substances. Many of these substances are well known but listing their many relevant regulations should be an attraction to health and safety officers and staff likely to handle them. If for no other reason this book should find a ready use for identifying and cross checking what is a complex area of essential regulatory control for occupational risks. Its clarity and good general coverage of an important area in health and safety are also worth considering.

B RUSHTON

Standard Haematology Practice 2. Ed K Wood. (Pp 289; £49.50.) Blackwell Science Ltd. 1995. ISBN 0-632-03739-3.

The 22 chapters of the book are guidelines on a variety of haematological topics prepared by the Task Force of the British Committee for Standards in Haematology which itself is a subcommittee of the British Society for Haematology. As the membership of the various task forces consists of the leading authorities in Britain in their respective sub-branches of haematology, this book can be considered to reflect current thinking and practice in haematology in this country. Trained and trainee haematologists together with medical laboratory scientists should therefore have a copy available to them in order to assess whether they are maintaining adequate standards of work and, if they find they are not, then goals are provided for which they must aim. Every chapter provides a sound basis for good quality audit sessions and the final chapter even informs the reader how to approach the concept of audit and successfully carry it out. Although one might expect guidelines written by Committees to be worthy but dull, most, but not all of the chapters are lively, succinct and easy to read. This especially applies to the 15 guidelines relating to specific topics in general haematology, haemostasis and thrombosis and blood transfusion. Seven chapters deal with

subjects relating to haematology laboratory management and discuss the managerial skills which must be acquired by senior medical and technical staff to ensure that the laboratories for which they are responsible provide a safe and efficient haematology service. With the increasing trend for hospital managers to look toward market forces with their emphasis on costs, it is imperative that work of high quality as reflected in these guidelines remains the prime objective of all grades of staff who work in haematology and this book, in conjunction with its companion volume, provides a sound basis for achieving this ideal.

D A WINFIELD

Colour Atlas of Ocular Manifestations of AIDS. Diagnosis and Management. J Orellana, RM Lieberman, SA Teich. (Pp 105; £108.00.) Igaku-Shoin. 1995. ISBN 4-260-14273-9.

The eye is often described as a window on the world, but it is also a window on the body and in AIDS allows the ophthalmologist to see many of the processes which characterise the immunodeficiency related disorders of HIV infection. The book starts with a good review section, although most readers would have to be seriously out of date to have missed most of this elsewhere. The chapter on public health concerns is in fact about precautions to prevent transmission by ophthalmic procedures. The ocular manifestations of AIDS are covered by anatomical location rather than by disease or process. This has led to some duplication, but the three authors have divided the problems well between the chapters, so this is not too noticeable. The final chapter on systemic manifestations might be needed by some ophthalmologists whose clinics are commonly held in gloomy conditions guaranteed to dilate the pupils, but not very good for dermatology!

A considerable number of histopathology photographs are included, and most of these are of high quality although in some the colour balance could be improved. Atlas textbooks are usually expensive for their size because of the need for high quality colour reproduction. This book is no exception, but the illustrations are generally very good—better than some pathology atlases!

I A CREE

Current Clinical Topics in Infectious Diseases. 14. Eds JS Remington, MN Swartz. (Pp 296; £59.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1994. ISBN 0-86542-359-8.

This is the most recent in an excellent series of books which have come out more or less annually. The subjects are wide ranging but do reflect current concerns. All the authors are senior and well respected in their fields. The reviews are excellent. Kurchner and Gibbons (Boston) set off with foot infections in diabetics and the advice about early and aggressive, curative surgery is important. The clinical subjects covered also include splenic abscess (a change in predominant pathogens in recent years), human herpesvirus 6, MRSA, and *Rochalimaea* spp infections. This genus has now been included in *Bartonella*. Of the antimicrobial subjects, there are reviews of automation of antibiotic sensitivity testing,

new macrolides, cytokine therapy (not much here except for rather specialist applications such as interferon for hepatitis and CSFs for neutropenics), and intelligent dosing with antimicrobials, much of which is about single daily doses of aminoglycosides. Infection control is represented in an article on the prevention of HIV infection in health care workers. Two more general chapters are about new vaccine development and ethical issues. This last chapter deals very briefly with the concepts of medical ethics in general and then presents some case histories suggesting a profound ethical dilemma in management.

I sometimes wonder about the value of books which contain a series of articles about what the editors perceived to be topical or debatable subjects. I use the past tense advisedly—by the time the book comes out, because of the inevitable delays in publication, things are likely to be rather out of date. Before you rush out to buy this volume there will have been additional delay (down to your reviewer) getting this review into print.

The obvious value is that each chapter gives an overview of subject. The author may be an expert or may be someone whom the editors managed to persuade to write a chapter. We could audit the book according to recency of references or by the number of papers written by the chapter author(s) (Should the author quote his own work or be modest and review the work of others?) or search out un referenced work which is the author's unattributed recent contribution to the genre.

(If you get asked to write a chapter, remember that it will get you 10 CME points but a book will only earn 50 points—best to write more than five chapters and get points for each.)

What of this book? It is the 14th in a prestigious series of infection books. It is unashamedly American in style and content and there are some differences in the ways that we approach infectious diseases. A review of the chapter on medical ethics is very interesting in this respect. It is a good bedside read and if you are setting off to research one of the topics, each chapter provides a reasonable list of references (but virtually none more recently than 1992) which will act as a respectable starting point for a literature search.

G M SCOTT

Diagnostic Bacteriology Protocols. Methods in Molecular Biology. Vol 36. Eds Jenny Howard, David M Whitcombe. (Pp 283; soft cover – no price given.) Humana Press. 1995. ISBN 0 89603 297 3.

Diagnostic Bacteriology Protocols is the 36th in the series of *Methods in Molecular Biology*. The authors set themselves an ambitious aim presenting a broad range of techniques for detecting, identifying and differentiating bacterial cell components. The protocols are intended to be easy to follow and "guarantee reproducible results for novices and senior researchers alike". If only that were true! Prospective purchasers should not be discouraged by this hype. In many respects the authors provide protocols which are clear to follow and should prove useful to a wide range of researchers.

The title is somewhat misleading as it may appear this book is suitable for those planning

to introduce molecular techniques into diagnostic clinical microbiology. It is in fact more suitable for a researcher who needs to compare organisms.

The techniques presented are diverse, ranging from antibiotic resistance profiles to random prime polymerase chain reaction and ligase chain reaction. Most of the chapters are of a very high standard providing clear advice but a number touch on areas which are too detailed to be handled in a brief chapter, notably, antibiotic resistance profiling or enzyme linked immunosorbent assay, which are too cursory to be truly useful. The editors have succeeded in bringing together text which is reasonably up to date although in this series not all of the techniques are molecular as illustrated by the excellent chapter on Bacteriocin and Bacteriophage typing. The authorship of this book is largely European despite its American format. It is undoubtedly a useful addition to the series and would be of use to research scientists.

S GILLESPIE

Notices

CPA Annual Conference 1996 Wednesday 13 March 1996

Venue: Royal College of Physicians,
11 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LE
(by kind permission of the Treasurer)

CPA (UK) Ltd is holding its fourth annual conference in March 1996. This year we have decided to use the forum to discuss CPA's findings in pathology in the first four year cycle and to look to the future of accreditation as we proceed to the second cycle of inspection visits.

Registration free: £90 (to include coffee, lunch and tea). The conference will be submitted for CPD and CME points.

For further information, please contact:
CPA Central Office, Pathology Block,
Children's Hospital, Sheffield S10 2TH.
(Tel: 0114 279 7472; fax: 0114 278 0428.)

Forthcoming Royal College of Pathologists Symposia

Diagnostic pitfalls in histopathology/
cytopathology practice
Wednesday 7 February (1 day course)

Stress in the NHS
Thursday 18 March

Metabolic bone disease
Thursday 18 April

What's new in development pathology
Thursday 16 May

The spleen – who needs it?
Wednesday 12 June

Treatment of virus infections
Wednesday 26 June

For further information, please contact:
Scientific Meetings Office, The Royal
College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House
Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF. (Tel: 0171
930 5862.)

The Third Annual Medical Design and Materials Conference

25–27 March 1996

Venue: Olympia 2 and Conference
Centre, London

Leading international experts will present up to the minute information and advice on the latest developments in materials for medical applications and innovative design techniques. Held in association with the Medical Design Technology Trade Show.

For further information, please contact:
Sonja Lloyd, Advanstar Communications, Advanstar House, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4RN. (Tel: 01244 378 888; fax: 01244 370 011.)

5th International Congress on Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology

presents

Therapeutic Uses of Trace Elements

February 4–7 1996

Main topics include: Therapeutic forms of trace elements; large epidemiological and intervention studies related to trace elements; trace element supplementation of population groups of differing ages; and trace elements, bone physiology and bone diseases, among others.

For further information, please contact:
Madame A Alcaraz, Laboratoire de Biochimie C, CHURG, B.P. 217, F-38043 Grenoble Cedex 9, France (tel: (33) 76 76 54 84; fax: (33) 76 76 56 64).

UMDS Dermatopathology Update

Friday, February 16 1996

Venue: St Thomas's Hospital, London
Morning: Cutaneous Lymphoma
Update

Speakers: R Willemze, A Norton,
D Slater, N P Smith

Afternoon: Pre-circulated slide seminar

For further information, please contact:
Dr P H McKee, Department of Histo-
pathology, St Thomas's Hospital Medical
School, Lambeth Palace Road, London
SE1 7EH. (Tel: 0171 928 9292 exn: 2295;
fax 0171 401 3661.)

United States FDA Medical Device Update: Design Controls, GMP Requirements and Marketing Clearance

20–23 May 1996

Venue: Charles de Gaulle Hilton, Paris,
France

An international meeting on FDA GMP and marketing regulations including the proposed new GMP requirements and how to comply with them. All three days will be presented by FDA's CDRH with a presentation by the European Commission. Sponsored by the French Government.

For further information, please contact:
Sharon Goff, Advanstar Communi-
cations, Advanstar House, Sealand Road,
Chester CH1 4RN. (Tel: 01244 378 888;
fax: 01244 370 011.)

Correction

The incorrect figure was printed in figure 4 of the paper by Vogl *et al* (*J Clin Pathol* 1995;48: 1039–44). The figure legend as printed is correct. The correct figure along with its legend is reproduced below.

Figure 4 TPS antigen and CyA concentration in cases 1 and 2. PTLD=post transplant lymphoproliferative disease; ARDS=adult respiratory distress syndrome.