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release into the circulation of histamine and eosinophil chemotactic factor of anaphylaxis during cold challenge. *N Engl J Med* 1976;294:687-90.

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- ⁷ Götze O, Müller-Eberhard HJ. The C3-activator system: An alternate pathway of complement activation. *J Exp Med* 1971;134(Suppl.):90S.
- ⁸ Evans DJ, Williams DG, Peters DK, *et al.* Glomerular deposition of properdin in Henoch-Schönlein syndrome and idiopathic focal nephritis. *Br Med J* 1973;3:326-8.

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The December 1980 Issue

THE DECEMBER 1980 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

Histological evidence of initiating factors in acute necrotising pancreatitis in man AK FOULIS

Brain damage in fatal non-missile head injury
J HUME ADAMS, DI GRAHAM, GRACE SCOTT, LILIAN S PARKER, AND D DOYLE

Senile amyloidosis: a protean manifestation of the aging process GG CORNWELL III AND P WESTERMARK

Megakaryocytes in pleural and peritoneal fluids: prevalence, significance, morphology, and cyto-histological correlation NB KUMAR AND B NAYLOR

Primary clear cell carcinoma of the larynx G PESAVENTO, A FERLITO, AND G RECHER

Identification of group B streptococci in tissue sections using the peroxidase-antiperoxidase method: a retrospective necropsy study T ANDRES AND B MACPHERSON

Role of coagulase-negative staphylococci and micrococci in ocular disease VM MAHAJAN, TA ALEXANDER, RK JAIN, AND LP AGARWAL

The diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease by counter-immunoelectrophoresis MG HOLLIDAY

Preliminary report on the pathogenicity of *Legionella pneumophila* for freshwater and soil amoebae TJ ROWBOTHAM

Electron microscopic evidence of flagella and pili on *Legionella pneumophila* FG RODGERS, PW GREAVES, AD MACRAE, AND MJ LEWIS

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Detection of *Bacteroides fragilis* and *Bacteroides melaninogenicus* by direct immunofluorescence M LABBÉ, N DELAMARE, F PEPERSACK, F CROKAERT, AND E YOURASSOWSKY

Cytoplasmic vacuolation of peripheral blood cells in acute alcoholism RJ DAVIDSON AND JL MCPHIE

Congenital dyserythropoietic anaemia type II (HEMPAS): a family study SHAUN R MCCANN, R FIRTH, NUALA MURRAY, AND IJ TEMPERLEY

Antithrombin III in patients on long-term oral anticoagulants H BULL, I MACKIE, M BROZOVIĆ, AND D WOODINGS

Heparin stability: effects of diluent, heparin activity, container, and pH KT GOODALL, CHEE-CHOONG CHOOI AND AS GALLUS

Ribonuclease as a tumour marker for pancreatic carcinoma G DORAN, TG ALLEN-MERSH, AND KW REYNOLDS

Technical methods

A simple method for processing fine-needle aspiration biopsy specimens for electron microscopy M AKHTAR, M ASHRAF ALI, E OWEN, AND M BAKRY

An economical, simplified haemagglutination test for mass syphilis screening JAJ BARBARA, R SALKER, FATIMA LALJI, TD DAVIES, AND JB HARRIS

Letters to the Editors

Book reviews

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production costs would be very similar. The facility of searching the magnetic tapes used in our system would be lost.

In summary, we recommend the use of microfiche as a storage medium for archival laboratory data as giving a more compact filing system and more rapid retrieval system than any other manual or computerised procedures known to us.

We thank the staff of the Department of Medical Illustration for the illustrations. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Oxford Regional Computer Unit.

References

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pathology laboratories: the Phoenix system (1-3). *Ann Clin Biochem* 1977;14:307-14, 315-22, 323-9.

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³ Allen PW, Angus BV. Computer output microfilm in an anatomic pathology laboratory. *Am J Clin Pathol* 1978; 68:537-43.

⁴ Pryor LR, Freeman VD. An archival system for clinical laboratory data. *Am J Clin Pathol* 1979;72:1013-7.

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41 The use of biochemical tests in the diagnosis of
disorders of calcium metabolism July 1980 ANGELA
FAIRNEY

book was implemented several years ago it is likely that the suggested solutions to the problems will be ones which would not be implemented today.

Particularly valuable are the flow charts in the appendices, which outline very clearly the detailed logic on which depends the orderly flow of specimens and data which we take for granted in a well-run laboratory.

The frank discussion of unsatisfactory decisions is helpful, as is the description of how the problems were overcome. The need to take account of the people working in the laboratory and their response to the new system come through the text very strongly.

The author has chosen to use original material as illustrations. This has the virtue of verisimilitude but there is the penalty of lack of clarity.

There is a move at present to purchase 'turn-key' systems rather than to design totally new laboratory systems. Armed with the knowledge contained in this book a prospective purchaser would be able to make a better informed assessment.

MG RINSLER

Human Plasma Proteins. Their Investigation in Pathological Conditions. JW Keyser. (Pp x + 320; illustrated; £18.50.) John Wiley & Sons. 1979.

This book deals with the pathophysiology of the plasma proteins and the role of their measurement in clinical practice. For a small book attempting to cover a large subject it is both comprehensive and readable and reflects the many years of experience the author has had in this field.

The approach is disease-orientated and does not attempt to enter into great detail on the biochemistry of the plasma proteins. Because of this it is a useful addition to the other texts already in existence which are of a more biochemical nature. Unfortunately the high standard is not uniformly maintained in all chapters. This is particularly true of fields such as lipoprotein metabolism and acute phase proteins where recent developments have somewhat changed our views. This is, however, more than compensated for by many other excellent chapters.

A useful and comprehensive appendix has been included on laboratory methods for plasma protein investigation and, while this is brief, it does nonetheless

provide a useful starting point for the laboratory worker. Good instructions are provided for most basic laboratory methods with very adequate bibliography.

This book will undoubtedly be of considerable value to chemical pathologists and clinical biochemists concerned with providing a clinical service in plasma protein measurements. It will also provide a useful source of reference to other pathologists wishing to take an interest in this important field. It is not a book for the expert, but for those wishing to gain an appreciation of this field of clinical pathology it is excellent.

JT WHICHER

Tumors of the Ovary and Maldeveloped Gonads. RE Scully. AFIP Atlas of Tumor Pathology. 2nd Series. Fascicle 16. (Pp 413; Figs. 383; Plates 16; US \$16.)

Robert Scully's reputation as a master of ovarian pathology can only be still further enhanced by this volume in the second series of the *AFIP Atlas of Tumor Pathology*. The WHO classification of ovarian tumours is used as a skeleton which is elegantly fleshed out by a lucid text which is permeated throughout with evidence of the author's vast experience of his topic. Further embellishment is provided by nearly 400 black-and-white figures, which are nearly all of high quality, and by 16 colour plates, some of which have a rather garish quality to their tints. A number of electron micrographs are included among the figures, but these are used sparingly to illustrate specific points. The references, though not over-abundant, are carefully chosen.

This book should be on the work-bench of all histopathologists who have to deal with ovarian tumours.

H FOX

Handling Chemical Carcinogens in the Laboratory—Problems of Safety. Eds R Montesano, H Bartsch, E Boyland, G Della Porta, L Fishbein, RA Griesemer, AB Swan, and L Tomatis. (Pp 32; Sw Fr 12.) WHO. 1979.

This booklet offers authoritative advice to staff of chemical and biological research laboratories on safety measures to be taken in using chemical carcinogens. Chapter I seeks to define the problem in operational terms. The point is well made

that it is scarcely possible to produce recommendations to cover the whole spectrum of circumstances in which chemical carcinogens may be used: the establishment of safety measures should rest on a balanced judgement by the investigator in charge of all the relevant risk factors. Chapter II sets out a code of practice intended to avoid exposure of workers to carcinogens and contamination of the laboratory, equipment, and environment. The principles of sound laboratory design, personal protection, manipulative techniques, monitoring and identification of hazard areas, and emergency procedures are outlined. Chapter III considers the storage, dispensing, and disposal of carcinogenic waste and highlights some very real practical difficulties. Chapter IV reviews the responsibilities of different grades of laboratory staff and the proper administrative and surveillance procedures. The booklet concludes by identifying areas where additional research into safety procedures is needed. A bibliography of 50 general references and 24 IARC publications is appended.

Much of this information is already available in one or other code of practice. Nevertheless, it has been skilfully drawn together and laced with good common sense. The booklet should be compulsory reading for all safety officers. Its advice should be heeded by all who work with chemical carcinogens.

SS BROWN

Notice

3rd Annual Dermatopathology Colloquium

This meeting will take place at Guy's Hospital, London SE1 on 11 July 1981 immediately preceding the International Dermatopathology Symposium. Further information regarding applications for attendance and details relating to submission of abstracts may be obtained from Dr DM MacDonald, Department of Dermatology, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT.

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