
This selective, critical review of the literature on gastritis is supplemented by corroborative or challenging studies by the authors. Limited information on Campylobacter pyloridis is included but its role is not clarified, although recent communications indicate that the organism appears to cause acute gastritis following ingestion of cultures and is probably aetologically involved in "active" chronic gastritis. There is an excellent description of drug induced lesions of the gastric mucosa. Alcohol is accepted as a cause of acute gastritis, and as one of many factors in antral chronic gastritis, but it plays no part in chronic gastritis of the fundus. Significant differences between chronic atrophic diffuse gastritis and gastric atrophy do not emerge from cell counts of lamina propria inflammatory cells and intraepithelial lymphocytes. Observations are made on dysplasia, Menetrier's disease, eosinophilic gastritis, and varioliform gastritis which are of current interest. There is a wealth of detail in this review which will be immensely valuable to all those with a special interest in gastritis.

H THOMPSON


This rare and intriguing disease has tantalised medical specialists of all kinds, for over 80 years and not just those belonging to the gastroenterological fraternity. The challenge presented by its extraordinary pathological and microbiological features, its strange epidemiology, and its protein clinical manifestations is outlined in meticulous detail in this remarkable monograph. Indeed, it is hard to find any aspect of the disease which is not analysed within its pages; even the exact location of every published case is recorded. That is not to say, however, that there are not many problems which remain to be solved; far from it. Even so an aspiring investigator would be ill advised to embark on any research project relating to Whipple's disease without having consulted this book. It can also be highly commended for more general reading as it is abundantly clear that this strange disease may play in its appearance in unexpected places and it would indeed be a misfortune if any case were to be missed.

FD LEE


This book comprises nine chapters, six of which are presented as self contained papers. Each chapter is well referenced. The first chapter introduces the reader to the basic working of the immune system with particular reference to MHC restriction and immune response genes, whilst the second chapter concentrates on the immunogenetics of leprosy. Essentially the next three chapters are presented as scientific papers with introduction, method, etc., utilising cloned T cells from leprosy patients. Chapters 6 and 7 study the effects of the possession of DR3 molecules in predisposing to the development of tuberculosis leprosy. Chapter 8 discusses the evidence for HLA-DR4-associated immune response gene for M tuberculosis, as DR4 is associated with a high responsiveness to M tuberculosis in a group of Spanish leprosy patients.

Unfortunately the authors do themselves a disservice by the rather vague title and one feels that this very readable and informative collection of papers may be overlooked by the very people is is aimed at. There is a large amount of repetition particularly in the introduction to each chapter. Overall I found the use of leprosy as a model for the study of immune response genes to be exciting and likely to be very productive in the years to come. My only other criticism is that over £30 for 150 pages is to my mind rather excessive.

JS JENKINS


Most books on sexually transmitted diseases covering a range of topics are concerned with the clinical and microbiological aspects with emphasis on one or the other. Nowhere before has the diagnosis of disease by immunological means been treated in such depth. The book comprises 17 chapters covering the important sexually transmitted infections and, as might be expected, there is considerable emphasis on the development and use of monoclonal antibodies. I was impressed, not only by the chapters concerned with topics for which there would seem to be considerable information more or less easily available, for example those on gon-
Whipple's Disease

FD Lee

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