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Book reviews

Laboratory Methods 1. Public Health Laboratory Service Monograph Series No. 5. By Joan R. Davies, E. J. G. Glencross, J. Marks, C. D. Plows, and Mair E. M. Thomas. (Pp. vii + 35; 2 illustrations. 50p.) London: HMSO. 1974. In the now well known Monograph Series published by the Public Health Laboratory Service it is the intention to publish collections of papers on various laboratory techniques that experience has shown to work well. This is the first group of such papers and like other monographs in the series will find its way into most microbiology laboratories. It contains a selection of descriptions of very different techniques.

Readers will find precise instructions for success with Elek plates for the demonstration of diphtheria toxin, and adherence to the suggestions will no doubt help to reduce the number of occasional failures with this technique. Methods for the isolation and characterization of *Listeria monocytogenes* are collected together and are here for easy reference. The way that we should go about the isolation and identification of mycobacteria is carefully and comprehensively described including a host of practical tips. This is an authoritative collection of advice from the Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory. A further two subjects are dealt with: the slide tests for glandular fever and finally there is a note on the isolation and identification of genital tract lactobacilli.

D. M. JONES

Haemophilia and Its Related Conditions: A Brief Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment. By Rosemary Biggs (Pp. v + 42; tables. 34p.) London: HMSO Research Council Memorandum No. 44, April 1974.

The publication of this MRC memorandum is most welcome, especially as the previous edition, which was published in

1955, had been out of date for well over a decade. The present monograph is an ideal introduction for anyone concerned with patients suffering from haemostatic disorders. Brief and always to the point, the author covers the clinical and laboratory diagnosis of hereditary and acquired coagulation defects and their treatment. Stress is laid on the need to treat these patients at special centres and the author succeeds in showing that, although the scene has been revolutionized by increased supplies of concentrate, there is much more to the treatment of haemophilia than the administration of blood products. At 34p the pamphlet is cheap enough and anyone connected with the management of bleeding disorders will benefit from having a copy, whether they be laboratory technician, nurse, physiotherapist, or doctor. I have only one adverse criticism and this refers to Appendix 2 which lists the haemophilia centres in the UK. Although the list, as it stands, is far better than no list at all it is a pity that, even at the time of publication, it was (like so many other printed lists) partly out of date and full of little errors.

KATHARINE M. DORMANDY

Tumors of the Extra-Adrenal Paraganglion System (Including Chemoreceptors). By George G. Glenner and Philip M. Grimley. (Pp. 90; illustrated. \$4.50.) Washington, D.C.: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1974.

The fascicles comprising the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology 'Atlas of tumor pathology' have long since established themselves as essential companions to the practising histopathologist, and this new issue on neoplasms of the extra-adrenal paraganglia is a most useful addition to the series.

The first 38 pages are devoted to the anatomy, histology, cytology, electron microscopy, histochemistry, cytochemistry, and physiology of the normal paraganglia, and a classification of these structures into a number of anatomical groups or 'families' is suggested. Tumours

and tumour-like lesions of the extra-adrenal paraganglia are then described. The text is concise, but contains much useful clinical, as well as pathological, information. The illustrations are of high quality.

This publication maintains the high standards already set by earlier additions to the 'second series' of AFIP fascicles. It represents a most valuable compendium of up-to-date knowledge concerning the paraganglia and their tumours.

N. F. C. GOWIN

Cardiomyopathies (Recent Advances in Studies on Cardiac Structure and Metabolism, Volume 2). Edited by E. Bajusz and G. Rona. (Pp. xiii + 842; illustrated. £17.25.) Lancaster: Medical and Technical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1974.

This is the proceedings of an international symposium on cardiomyopathies, and like other reports of its kind, covers the field widely. There is more than the usual quota of pathology, with less consideration of clinical and therapeutic problems; pathologists will find this of value as reference work. It would be a pity if weakening of links between this country and Africa, such a rich source of many types of cardiomyopathy, held back the development and spread of knowledge in this subject.

R. A. B. DRUMMOND