Book reviews

Urinary Stones: Clinical and Laboratory Aspects. G Alan Rose. (Pp 272; illustrated; £16.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1982.

Urolithiasis is common. Some cases are amenable to specific treatment and others indicate important underlying disease and they can all be helped in some way by the type of careful investigation and well informed advice presented in this book. It is written in a refreshingly direct and concise style. The conclusions from the numerous epidemiological and physico-chemical studies are well summarised. The laboratory sections contain clear working instructions and valuable comments on methodology. The emphasis on the importance of stone analysis is particularly welcome. The clinical sections are full of sound advice and reliable information. Common and uncommon causes of urinary stones are equally well covered. The importance of close medical-surgical collaboration is emphasised by a chapter written by a urologist.

This book deserves a warm welcome and strong recommendation for both clinical and laboratory-based readers. The author's wide experience and enthusiasm shines throughout the text.

RWE WATTS

Functionally Differentiated Cell Lines. Ed Gordon Sato. (Pp 280; illustrated; £25.90.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1981.

Cell lines in tissue culture have become the corner-stone of much research into differentiation and cancer. This small volume provides an up-to-date summary of functionally differentiated cell lines available from laboratories throughout the world. Understanding the phenomenon of differentiation involves probing differences between cells that have undergone changes with their stem cells of origin. The various systems available for doing this are described in the fourteen chapters of this book. Firstly, cell lines that are dependent on hormones and so possessing hormone receptors are described. These provide model systems for hormone action at a cellular rather than physiological level. Neuronal and glial cell lines are described which exhibit a myriad of properties found in what to the pathologist is a very uniform organ, the brain. Perhaps the most fascinating cell lines of all are those of the teratocarcinoma, the stem cells of which can

differentiate into any functional state. Such cells gradually lose their ability to divide as they pass down the pathway of differentiation. Lymphocyte lines which have proven to be of considerable use in the production of monoclonal antibodies and T cell hybridomas are outlined.

As well as providing considerable information about the various cell lines available for research, the book provides useful references and addresses of cell repositories from which lines can be obtained. The book is a useful addition to the library of any laboratory undertaking research involving tissue culture.

K SIKORA

The Staphylococci. Proceedings of the Alexander Ogston Centennial Conference. Ed Alexander Macdonald and George Smith. (Pp 288; illustrated; £20.) Aberdeen University Press. 1981.

On 9 April 1880 in Berlin, Alexander Ogston described to the German Chirurgical Society his observations on the role of "micrococci" in the pyogenic process. The chapters of this book are based on lectures given at a conference in Aberdeen to celebrate the centenary of that occasion. After a foreword by Sir Ashley Miles the first paper "Alexander Ogston" by F Linde very appropriately comes from Germany where Ogston's early work was received more favourably than in Britain. This is followed by papers on Ogston the bacteriologist (G Smith) and Ogston and the Royal Army Medical Corps (J Baird). Of the remaining chapters some trace the progress of work on staphylococci since the time of Ogston and other are accounts of work by the contributors themselves: taxonomy (LR Hill), host parasite relationships (CSF Easmon), experimental infections (RR Marples), antibodies (P Oeding *et al*), epidermolytic toxins (JP Arbutnot and A Lyell), the hospital staphylococcus (RA Shooter), coagulase-negative ("the other") staphylococci (MT Parker), transfer and acquisition (OM Lidwell), ward accommodation for surgical patients (HG Smylie), orthopaedic infections (J McLauchlan), infections in the tropics (JE Jellis), nasal carriage in Antarctica (MDM Hadley), and treatment of severe infections (HP Lambert).

Three of the contributions were named lectures. In the Davidson lecture, Paul G Quie describes the work that he and his colleagues in Minneapolis have done on host determinants of staphylococcal infection and on components of staphylococci

that influence their ingestion and killing by phagocytes. The Marnoch lecture was given by WA Altemeier. He and his Cincinnati colleagues illustrate the remarkable versatility of the staphylococcus in a review of its behaviour as a successful commensal and as a pathogen. In the first Ledingham lecture, Sir Robert Williams pays tribute not only to John Charles Ledingham, who made notable contribution to the study of carriers in the epidemiology of microbial disease, but also to Ogston's coccus which so cleverly dodges most of our precautions against its spread and resists our efforts to unravel the mysteries of its toxicity. In doing this he inevitably pays tribute to those who have devised and refined methods for studying the spread of this organism, many of which have wide epidemiological application. The appendix is Dr Witte's translation of Ogston's 1880 paper (with a fold-out reproduction of its original illustrations) which most modern bacteriologists will not have seen and to which they will not have easy access.

Most conference reports have little scientific value because they concern work that has already been more fully described in original publication. This applies to several of the papers in this book; and similar versions of some of them also appear in the proceedings of the 4th International Symposium of Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections in Warsaw (see review in this *Journal*, February 1982, page 248). However, some of the papers have inherent value, and the event of the conference itself has historical importance. The report therefore deserves a place in microbiological libraries.

R BLOWER

A Colour Atlas of Surgical Pathology. Guthrie and R Fawkes. (Pp 229; colour illustrations; £35.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1982.

Although an attempt is made to cover a full range of readers from undergraduate practising histopathologist, this atlas almost inevitably fails to satisfy either. The macroscopic photographs are in general of high quality, but the photomicrographs are less satisfactory, particularly the lower magnifications. The balance of material selected is eccentric—7 photographs of the pilonidal sinus and 4 pages on urinary stones, but only 1 photomicrograph of Hodgkin's. However, the most disappointing part of the book is the captions which are restricted to a description of the individual specimens shown, with no expansion