	Mexican pararotavirus	Chilean pararotavirus	Rotavirus
Acute serum (Mexican)	-	-	-
Convalescent serum (Mexican)	+	-	-
Human immune globulin (UK)	NT	+	+

NT = not tested.
+ = positive; - = negative.

These results suggest that the Mexican and Chilean pararotaviruses are antigenically distinct. Furthermore, antibody to the Chilean pararotavirus is present in human immune globulin prepared from the UK population, which suggests that this serotype has circulated in the UK.

Further studies will establish whether antigenic diversity is as common among the human pararotaviruses as among rotaviruses. Recently, antigen diversity has been reported among animal rotavirus lacking the typical group antigen.²

This work was carried out during a free session of a WHO workshop on electron microscopy and immune electron microscopy held in Mexico City.

FERNANDO PUERTO MANZANO

*Instituto de Investigaciones Biomedicas,
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico,
Mexico, DF 04510*

LUIS F AVENDANO

*Departamento de Microbiologia y Parasitologia,
Universidad de Chile, Facultad
Medicina Norte, Santiago, Chile*

JOSE ESPARZA

Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas, Caracas, Venezuela

E OWEN CAUL

*Public Health Laboratory, Kingsdown,
Bristol, England*

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Book reviews

Nephro-urology. Integrated Clinical Science. Ed AW Asscher and DB Moffat. (Pp 168; softback £7.50.) William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1983.

The authors' highly commendable objective in this book is "to present a logical and easily understood account of nephro-urology". In parts they have succeeded admirably; elsewhere the standard falls. To write a book such as this demands complete familiarity with basic science and clinical practice. In several chapters one has the feeling of "arm-chair clinical practice": for example, autonomic denervation as a common cause of postural hypotension or the massive list of investigations required to be applied to stone formers. Some observations are heretical—for example, dismissal of the jugular venous pressure as a measure of fluid balance—or just plain wrong—for example, filtration of PAH by the tubules. In brief the book is a good start in the right direction but it needs more critical and informed editing.

WR CATTELL

Blood Platelet Function and Medicinal Chemistry. Ed A Lasslo. (Pp 324; \$49.50.) Elsevier Science Publishing. 1984.

This reference book on platelet function comprises six chapters by twelve contributors from the USA and Canada. Its unusual title (intriguing yet opaque) is mirrored by an unusual mixture of chapter topics. There is a brief introduction on the role of platelets in cardiovascular disease followed by three good review chapters on platelet ultrastructure and the effects of platelet activation, on platelet function (normal and abnormal), and on the pathophysiology of vascular endothelium. These are valuable reviews for both the specialist and generalist. In contrast, the

final two chapters are specialist contributions on the interaction of platelets with biomaterials, as used in prostheses, and on the action of chemical agents and drugs on platelet metabolism. The latter includes changes in the physicochemical properties of the platelet membrane such as phospholipid structure, microviscosity, and receptor sites. The specialist will also appreciate the extensive bibliography. Generalist readers should be selective.

J STUART

Precancer. Cancer Surveys. Advances and Prospects in Clinical, Epidemiological and Laboratory Oncology. Vol 2, no 3. Guest Ed JJ DeCosse. Annual subscription £45 for four copies. Single copies £14. Oxford University Press.

The early recognition of those cellular events which invariably progress to frank malignancy ("precancer") are of utmost importance to the pathologist and cell biologist alike. Unfortunately, the histological and cytological criteria accurately identifying those events are presently incompletely defined – and often ambiguous.

This small volume contains contributions from several recognised authorities and critically evaluates precancer of the more common sites in an attempt to highlight those features common to this process. The articles are well written and together provide a useful, informed, and easily read review of present concepts of precancer. It is good value at the current price.

CS FOSTER

The Leukemias. Hematology. Vol 1. Butterworths International Medical Reviews. Ed John M Goldman and Harvey D Preisler. (Pp 372; £29.) The Butterworth Group. 1984.

This first volume in a new series of haematological reviews could more accurately be described as a concise textbook. The Anglo-American team of editors and authors has produced a comprehensive book only distinguishable from the conventional text book by the absence of older references, more recent ones being numerous and up to date.

The four basic types of leukaemia are