

Dr Tebbutt replies as follows:

While I agree that the fluid used for the emulsification of haemophili can influence routine disc tests, I cannot accept that it accounted for the 25 strains wrongly identified by this method. I found that about 5% of *H influenzae* strains, suspended in quarter-strength Ringer solution, grew on nutrient agar to which V but no X factor had been added. This percentage is similar to that found in routine disc tests when the haemophili were suspended in Nutrient Broth No 2. These results suggest that the presence of X factor in the agar medium is the most important consideration. Probably no complex medium which otherwise satisfies the growth requirements of *Haemophilus* spp is completely free from X factor.

I reported that growth of *H influenzae* around a disc containing V factor was relatively common in routine disc tests, and this may be due to use of nutrient broth as the suspending fluid. Growth around the V disc, however, was usually considerably less than that around a combined XV disc. This permitted the correct identification of these strains.

Mrs Jones rightly draws attention to difficulties and problems of reproducibility with XV disc tests. My study suggests alternative methods for reliable identification of *H influenzae* in diagnostic laboratories.

GM TEBBUTT
Public Health Laboratory,
South Cleveland Hospital,
Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS4 3TA

Book reviews

Pre-Eclampsia. The Hypertensive Disease of Pregnancy. Ian MacGillivray. (Pp 392; £19.50.) WB Saunders. 1983.

This book is the work of a man who has devoted 35 years of his life to the study of pre-eclampsia. As such it bears the same relationship to published conference proceedings pertaining to this disease, of which there are many, as does a vintage *premier cru* to supermarket plonk: it is balanced, mature, mellow, and rich.

Everything that anyone could possibly wish to know about pre-eclampsia can be found in this volume, and the author not only presents the many studies of his team in Aberdeen, but also reviews the literature with a keenly critical eye. The chapter on the pathological findings in this disease is excellent, and in it the author fully acknow-

ledges and ungrudgingly praises the pioneering studies of Harold Sheehan.

The author records that in his youth he photographed the plaque on the wall in the Chicago Lying-In Hospital which still awaits the name of the discoverer of the cause of pre-eclampsia and notes that his early hopes and ambitions of seeing his name on that plaque have now receded. Many others have pondered that plaque but few have so little cause for disappointment as does Ian MacGillivray: he has produced a clear, wise, thoughtful, scientific book, one that all with even the slightest interest in pre-eclampsia will wish to have and treasure.

H FOX

Tumors: An Atlas of Differential Diagnosis. Cyril Toker. (Pp 484; £50.) Edward Arnold. 1983.

"Wallpaper matching" is a disparaging epithet applied by histopathologists to a certain means of diagnosis when conventional ones have failed. This atlas, consisting of monochrome photomicrographs of tumours classified entirely according to their histological pattern attempts to aid such a process. The small amount of text describes the morphological features but no other aids to diagnosis, eg clinical, are given. The photographic quality is very good apart from a tendency to high contrast. The author's terminology tends to be archaic, which is irritating and the verisimilitude of the work is compromised when one consistently sees "Exxner" in Call-Exner and "phylloides" in cystosarcoma phylloides. I wonder if one is expected to refer to the atlas when seeing a common tumour in order to exclude the numerous similar-looking rarities which abound in it. In all justice to the author and prospective purchaser, I recommend that the latter spend five minutes looking at a copy in his bookshop and try to visualise how he would use the atlas before putting his £50 on the counter.

PN COWEN

Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

Saunders Dictionary & Encyclopaedia of Laboratory Medicine and Technology. Ed James L Bennington. (Pp 1674; £40.) WB Saunders Company. 1983.

Cell Fusion. Ciba Foundation Symposium 103. (Pp 291; £25.) Pitman Books. 1983.

Radiology of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Clive I Bartram. Diagnostic Radiology Series. (Pp 310; £45.) Butterworths. 1983.

Notices

British Lymphoma Pathology Group Workshop on Lymphoproliferative Diseases

A British Lymphoma Pathology Group workshop on lymphoproliferative diseases will be held in Oxford from 26 to 28 September 1984. The speakers include Professor Ron Dorfman, Professor Harald Stein, and members of the British Lymphoma Pathology Group. It is intended primarily for histopathologists.

Further details can be obtained from: Dr DY Mason, Department of Haematology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX2 9DU.

World Hemophilia AIDS Center

The World Hemophilia AIDS Center (WHAC), an international clearinghouse of information about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and haemophilia, has been established at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Los Angeles, California. WHAC, established under the auspices of the World Federation of Hemophilia and Orthopaedic Hospital, will serve as an international case surveillance centre for AIDS or suspected AIDS cases in haemophilia patients. The Center also will distribute information about AIDS to concerned individuals and to organisations.

Further information can be obtained from: Shelby L Dietrich MD, World Hemophilia AIDS Center, Orthopaedic Hospital, 2400 South Flower, Los Angeles, California 90007.

Correction

An error occurred in the paper by Wills *et al*¹ in the February 1984 issue. In the Material and methods section the concentration of glucose should have been given as 20 mg/ml.

Reference

¹ Wills PJ, Johnson L, Thompson RG. Isolation of Chlamydia using McCoy cells and Buffalo green monkey cells. *J Clin Pathol* 1984;37:120-1.