

chromatograms showed the presence of lactose. Laboratory staff should be aware of this potential artefact.

R. B. PAYNE  
K. R. JOHNSON

*Department of Chemical Pathology,  
Leeds (St James's) University Hospital,  
Leeds LS9 7TF, Yorkshire, England*

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## Book reviews

**Analytical Atomic Absorption Spectrometry** By W. J. Price. (Pp. xii + 239; illustrated. £5.80.) Rheine and London: Gunter Heyden Ltd. 1972.

This book was written specifically for either the analytical chemist at his bench or the student of analytical chemistry. The author has arranged the material in the sequence he believed the analyst would wish to develop a knowledge of the subject. The introductory chapter deals mainly with fundamental definitions and the subsequent chapters cover 'Basic principles', 'Instrumental requirements', 'Analytical techniques', and 'Applications'. An appendix contains 'Sensitivities' and 'Details for individual elements'. The book is essentially practical in nature and is on the whole easy to read, although in places there is some confusion. The main defect in this book is the brevity of the chapter on basic principles which covers only 10 pages and is very superficial. The remaining chapters are adequate although at points in the chapters the sequences could be improved to help the reader who is trying to develop a knowledge of the subject. Despite these comments the book is to be recommended for inclusion among the library collections of chemical pathology departments.

M. R. WILLS

**Human Blood Coagulation, Haemostasis and Thrombosis.** Edited by Rosemary Biggs. (Pp. xxv + 697; illustrated. £7.50.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh & Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1972.

Nearly 20 years have elapsed since 'Human Blood Coagulation and its Disorders' was first published. During that time, 'Biggs and Macfarlane' has become established as a standard work of reference for all interested in the clotting of blood. Within the same period, many new discoveries have taken place and many new concepts have been propounded on the subject of blood coagulation and related topics.

The latest edition reflects the changes that have occurred in that the title is expanded to include haemostasis and

thrombosis, and the chapters are written by 17 authorities. One is glad to find, however, that Professor MacFarlane and Dr Biggs are still present as authors and have made many valuable contributions to the book, and that Rosemary Biggs remains in overall editorial control.

The subject matter is dealt with in a clear and logical manner. The first part of the book covers the topic of coagulation and, after a superb introductory chapter by MacFarlane on the theory of blood coagulation, progresses via the various clotting factors and their activation to inhibitors of blood coagulation. Another excellent chapter by Professor Born and Hardisty on platelets is followed by one on abnormal clotting factors and a section on the more clinical aspects of coagulation factor deficiencies: clinical features, laboratory diagnosis, therapeutic materials available, and the management of patients.

The second part of the book is devoted to fibrinolysis and includes chapters on the fibrinolytic enzyme system, thrombolytic therapy, the defibrination syndrome and 'Arvin'. The subsequent section deals with thrombosis, anticoagulant therapy, and, in another fascinating chapter by MacFarlane, haemostasis. At the end of the book, there are very comprehensive appendices describing the various tests used in the investigation of coagulation disorders, including tests for fibrinolysis and platelet function.

This edition shows few of the defects of multiple authorship. It says much for all the authors that such a satisfactory state of affairs has come into being, since Dr Biggs admits in the Preface that she has kept editing to a minimum. There is a little, but insignificant, overlap between the chapters. The subject matter is almost always presented in a fair and unbiased manner. Some may disagree with the amount of space allotted to various topics. For example, a chapter on 'The contact system' receives 53 pages, whereas the whole subject of fibrinolysis (four chapters) comprises only 114 pages and thrombosis (three chapters) only 109 pages. This may signify a reluctance on the part of the authors to expand from pure coagulation theory into other fields. References also vary from chapter to chapter in their degree of topicality. However, one must confess that these are all minor criticisms.

The book is well produced. All diagrams are clear and the few platelets

excellent. It would have been desirable, in a volume of this type, to have included a comprehensive index of authors of references. It is somewhat surprising, but pleasing, to find that, in spite of the multiplicity of contributors, the book has not been increased greatly in overall size. The second edition of Biggs and MacFarlane amounted to 476 pages; the present volume totals 697 pages. There is no doubt that this latest book is as outstanding as its predecessors and remarkably good value for money. It is likely to remain as the standard book of reference on coagulation.

A. J. SALSURBY

**Inherited Blood Clotting Disorders.** Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 504. (Pp. 48; illustrated. 40p.) Geneva, World Health Organization. 1972. Available through H.M. Stationery Office.

A guide for the conscientious administrator—medical or lay—who is responsible for all aspects of the haemophilias. All is included from clinical states through laboratory tests to management, genetic counselling, and special schools. The main criticism of this and other WHO reports must be the lack of references. One page of review or book references would greatly enhance their value.

H. E. M. KAY

**Microbiology of the Seventies** A Symposium held at Brompton Hospital, London. Edited by F. J. Baker. (Pp. viii + 196; tables; illustrated. £5.00.) London: Butterworth Group. 1972.

This is a report of a two-day symposium at the Brompton Hospital supported by Mast Laboratories held in May 1971, ie, one year and four months before publication. It includes 13 papers on a variety of subjects, each followed by discussion which was tape recorded at the time. There is a final open forum discussion.

Five papers were given by medical microbiologists and eight by non-medical. Among the subjects covered are virus diagnosis by electron microscopy, with very beautiful pictures; computer indenti-

fication of Gram-negative rods; automation in bacteriology; antifungal drugs; rapid techniques, micro-methods, and work flow in bacteriology. Inevitably, as in any symposium, the standard of presentation and content is very variable and much of it has now been published elsewhere. It is doubtful whether many people will wish to spend £5 on a paperback publication containing little which is new although those who took part may well wish to do so to remind them of what was evidently a happy occasion.

If, as the Editor hopes, this symposium is the forerunner of many, a less ambitious account published within a few months much less expensively would be of greater value to those working in this field.

E. J. STOKES

**Progress in Allergy.** Volume 16 Edited by P. Kallos, B. H. Waksman, and A. de Weck. (Pp. xii + 498; 52 figures; 31 tables; 2 coloured plates. £14.10.) Basel, Munich, Paris, London, New York, and Sydney: S. Karger. 1972.

The review paper is a mixed blessing. On the positive side it is a collection of references relating to a particular topic which can be used as either a starting point for the tyro or to refresh the memory of the more advanced student. More destructively, review papers are rarely subject to critical scrutiny by other than their author(s) and this can lead to massively subjective estimates gaining a credence far beyond their worth. 'Progress in allergy' specializes in review articles. The present volume flits from a survey of 'Recent developments in immunofluorescent method' (Faulk and Hijmans), to 'Cell-cell interactions in antibody production' (Claman and Mosier), to 'Structure and function of immunoglobulin A' (Tomasi and Grey), to 'Antigens of the thymus' (Schlesinger), to 'Cellular hypersensitivity and immunity': 'Inhibition of macrophage migration and the lymphocyte mediators' (David and David), to 'Immunologic mechanisms of platelet damage' (Osler and Siraganian). Few volumes could better illustrate the bewildering variety of approach to contemporary immunological problems. Nevertheless, despite the initial reservations, the authors of this volume show great scholarship in expounding their topics and without doubt this volume

merits a place on the library shelves of all those interested in teaching or research in immunology.

A. J. S. DAVIES

**The Scientific Fundamentals of Surgery** By J. Gwynne Brockis. (Pp. x + 719; illustrated. £10.00.) London: Butterworths. 1972.

This book is an attempt by a single author to present to surgeons the whole of the laboratory practice on which they depend for many of their decisions. As such it inevitably suffers from being rather superficial, but it could be useful to the trainee surgeon and possibly the senior medical student. This book is not suitable for pathologists at any stage of development, but then it makes no such claim.

B. C. MORSON

**Paramedical Pathology** By Alvin F. Gardner. (Pp. viii + 200; illustrated. \$12.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1972.

The author considers a fundamental knowledge of general pathology essential for the members of the paramedical professions. The aim of this book is to provide such knowledge. Unfortunately this is not achieved in this curiously uneven text. The first 10 chapters are devoted to general mechanisms of disease and present a somewhat panoramic view of such processes as inflammation, repair, and neoplasia. This is the most satisfactory section of the book and many of the photomicrographs are of good quality. The subsequent chapters on special pathology are frankly weak and misleading, eg, the section on pulmonary embolism consists of five lines devoted to an inadequate description of amniotic fluid embolism. This book cannot be recommended for the audience for which it is intended, always supposing such an audience exists.

M. S. DUNNILL

**Multiple Sclerosis. A Reappraisal** 2nd Ed. By Douglas McAlpine, Charles E. Lumsden, and E. D. Acheson (Pp. x + 653; 74 tables; 44 figures. £6.00.) Edin-