to prevent the development of resistance for the treatment of serious Pseudomonas and some Proteus infections. Anyone reading this book might use it in small doses to treat chronic bronchitis! I am sure that is not what Professor May intended.

Both these potential misunderstandings could be avoided by small alterations to the text and I hope this may be possible when this useful book is reprinted.

E. J. STOKES

**Hepatitis and Blood Transfusion** Edited by Girish N. Vyas, Herbert A. Perkins, and Rudi Schmid. (Pp. xviii + 428; illustrated. £7·40.) New York and London: Grune and Stratton. 1972.

This book reports the proceedings of a symposium held in San Francisco in March 1972. The symposium was organized in connexion with a meeting of blood transfusion workers but its scope also extended to the clinical and virological aspects of hepatitis. Many of the most active American groups presented papers and much of the material is not yet available elsewhere. The Editors are to be congratulated on their feat of producing this large book, which contains no less than 59 papers by about 90 authors, within six months of the meeting itself.

Much of the atmosphere of the symposium is conveyed as one reads the papers and the editorial process has not eliminated the characteristic styles of the different speakers. The direct reproduction of the typescripts and the uneven quality of the illustrations are therefore readily forgiven. One regret is that the 'discussion' sections consist of formal papers amplifying or modifying the major presentations. Presumably the true discussion proved too lively to record and edit.

Active workers on hepatitis problems will find a gold mine of results and ideas in this book. It also provides an interesting and readable survey of current activity for the more general reader but the kaleidoscopic effect of the many papers would certainly prove confusing for those seeking an introductory account.

Some of the papers, such as those by Drs Krugman and Giles and by Dr Blumberg, are review-summaries of a distinguished series of papers from a single group. Others, such as those by Dr Redeker and Dr Chalmers, report extensive experience in applying Australia antigen testing in clinical situations. The problems associated with the introduction of hyperimmune globulin are aired by Drs Prince and Krugman and there are interesting papers about technical methods including subtyping (Dr Le Bouvier and Dr Gocke), radioimmunoassay (Dr Aach and others), and latex agglutination (Dr Perkins and others).

The section dealing with basic problems, such as the propagation of 'hepatitis' agents, is predictably the least satisfactory and reveals all too clearly the lack of real progress in understanding the nature of hepatitis.

One interesting feature of the book is its bibliography. A single list containing about 500 references has been compiled for the entire volume and should prove useful in its own right. Its value is reduced, however, because room was not found for the titles. The bibliography contains very few references to foreign language journals demonstrating once more the lack of satisfactory communication between workers in different countries.

'Hepatitis and blood transfusion' overall is an admirable account of a very interesting meeting. It is likely to be read in subsequent years for the light it casts on the development of ideas during the search for the hepatitis virus.

What a pity it is so expensive.

YVONNE E. COSSART

**Data Processing and Computers in Clinical Pathology** By M. D. Buckley-Sharp. A feasibility study for the Bland-Sutton Institute and Related Laboratories of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. (Pp. 120; illustrated. £1·50.) London: Department for Research and Service in (Medical) Education. School of Pathology, Middlesex Hospital Medical School. 1972.

This book is a copy of a report prepared by the author for his colleagues in the Department for Research and Service in (Medical) Education and the School of Pathology, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London. The report is concerned with a survey of the use of computers in clinical pathology. The author reports on six possible computer systems in some 30 pages; the preamble to the description takes 78 pages.

The author states on page 107 that the reader may be forgiven for reaching this final part of the report 'in a state of some confusion'. It was difficult to find any systematic pattern in the treatment of the subject. Out of such confusion the author concludes that computers will be as commonplace in clinical laboratories as automatic equipment is at the present time. If so, then such a conclusion should not be a statement of faith, but requires to be logically argued. Such an approach cannot be identified by your reviewer in this publication.

T. P. WHITEHEAD

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**International Society of Haematology**

The Third Meeting of the European and African Division of the International Society of Haematology will be held in London at the Royal Festival Hall on 24-28 August, 1975 (President Professor J. V. C. Dacie FRS; Secretary Dr S. M. Lewis).

The scientific programme will include reviews, presentation of new work, round table, panel discussions on practical aspects of the subjects, and workshops on specialized topics.

The main sessions will be on hereditary haemolytic anaemias, thrombosis and haemostasis, immuno-haematology, erythropoiesis, aplastic anaemia, leukaemia, haemoglobin, thalassaemia, haemoglobinopathies, nutritional anaemias, lymphomas, and myeloma.

There will be an exhibition of technical equipment, laboratory instruments, and pharmaceutical products. There will also be scientific demonstrations and scientific film shows.

The official language of the meeting will be English.

Further information can be obtained from: Dr S. M. Lewis, Department of Haematology, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Ducane Road, London, W12 0HS.

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