work of Kaplan and his colleagues. (A seriously misprinted dose has a correction slip and seems to be a solitary error.)

Of course the hazard of a work of this sort is the possibility of personal bias; Kaplan is known to be an enthusiast who may on occasion overlook the ill effects of treatment. Thus when he claims that 'the incidence of incomplete hematopoietic recovery after total-lymphoid radiotherapy alone . . . has been approximately 1 per cent' one is entitled to ask what constitutes complete recovery and whether this includes a normal response to cytotoxic drugs. Probably not. Readers may also wish to see the opposition view to the theory of lymphatic spread presented at first hand. If so, they must wait for the multi-author British volume on the same topic but may, meanwhile, wonder whether it can hope to surpass Kaplan's considerable achievement.

H. E. M. KAY

Hepatitis-Associated Antigen and Viruses By A. J. Zuckerman. (Pp. approx. 240; illustrated. Dfl. 60.00). Amsterdam and London: North-Holland Publishing Co. 1972.

In writing this book Dr Zuckerman has set himself the ambitious task of producing both a critical review of the now extensive hepatitis literature, and an introduction to the subject within the confines of a single volume. These aims are often conflicting and the resulting compromise lacks balance.

The historical introduction consists mainly of a translation of Lurman's classical account of an outbreak of hepatitis following smallpox vaccination in Bremen. This is supplemented by a catalogue of some of the early observations, but no attempt is made to describe the theoretical concepts current at the time. It is curious to see the recognition of posttransfusion hepatitis attributed to the author (1970).

In the chapters about hepatitis as a disease, clarity has been attained by great simplification of the issues, and too often an earlier review by the author is quoted rather than the original paper.

Scant attention is given to the foreign language literature.

Rather more than half the book is concerned with Australia antigen and this makes interesting reading although the extended exposition of the work from

the author's group has left insufficient space for an overall view of current progress. For instance, a chapter is devoted to attempts to grow hepatitis virus in liver organ cultures at the London School of Hygiene, but room has not been found to acknowledge the early work of Bang in this field.

As might be expected from its price the book is handsomely presented with many illustrations but it seems to the reviewer that the time is not yet ripe for writing a definitive monograph on this rapidly moving subject.

YVONNE E. COSSART,

Computer Diagnosis and Diagnostic Methods: Proceedings of the Second Conference on the Diagnostic Process. Edited by John A. Jacquez. (Pp. xiv + 397; illustrated. \$19.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1972

The 19 read papers in this volume overlap considerably, except for one by a C.I.A. statistician on political espionage rather than the arts of healing. Apart from the papers by Cornfield and Edwards, there is much that is pretentious or completely lacking in medical common-sense. The main problem discussed is estimating betting odds that a patient has a particular disease. They use Bayes' law, which states that a new independent piece of evidence, eg, a biochemical test, multiplies existing odds by a factor which is called the 'likelihood' of that evidence for that disease. Since thousands of different signs, symptoms, and tests and thousands of diseases are possible, we must tell a computer millions of likelihoods before it can use Bayes' law for us, and allowance for the non-independence of different bits of evidence makes things even worse! Except in differential diagnosis of similar diseases, this approach is not of practical value.

RICHARD PETO

Manual of Histopathological Staining Methods By Frederick A. Putt. (Pp. xxii + 335. £6.20.) New York, Sydney, and Chichester: John Wiley and Sons Ltd. 1973.

This is a useful book and deserves a place on the bookshelf in any routine diagnostic histopathology laboratory. It contains detailed descriptions of a wide variety of staining methods. The layout

is extremely clear and each step in each method is clearly explained thus minimizing the chance of error when a stain is employed for the first time.

M. S. DUNNELL

Books received

Evaluation of Certain Food Additives and the Contaminants Mercury, Lead and Cadmium. Sixteenth Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. WHO Technical Report Series No. 505. (Pp. 32. 40p.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1972. Available from HM Stationery Office.

Oculomycoses By Jules François and M. Rysselaere. (Pp. xii + 430; illustrated. \$34.50.) Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1972.

Acute Ureteric Obstruction. A Clinical and Radiological Study By P. M. Bretland. (Pp. xv + 219; illustrated. £5.20.) London: Butterworth Group. 1972.

Rehabilitation of the Cancer Patient A collection of Papers presented at the 15th Annual Clinical Conference on Cancer, 1970, at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas. (Pp. i + 326; illustrated. £9.00.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. Distributed in UK and Europe by Lloyd-Luke Medical Books, London. 1972.