work of Kaplan and his colleagues. (A
seriously misprinted dose has a cor-
rection 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 radio-
therapy alone . . . has been approxi-
mately 1 percent' one is entitled to ask what
constitutes complete recovery and whether
this includes a normal response to
cyotoxic 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. fl. 60.00.) Amsterdam
and London: North-Holland Publish-
ing Co. 1972.

In writing this book Dr Zuckerman has set
himself the ambitious task of produ-
cing 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 hep-
itis following smallpox vaccination in
Bremen. This is supplemented by a
catalogue of some of the early observa-
tions, but no attempt is made to
describe the theoretical concepts current
at the time. It is curious to see the recog-
nition of postransfusion hepatitis attrib-
uted 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 too
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,

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
likelyhoods 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, Sydne,
and Chichester: John Wiley and Sons

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

Books received

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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.

Oculomyocoses By Jules Francois and
M. Rysselare. (Pp. xii + 430; illustrated.
§34.50.) Springfield, Ill.: Charles C.
Thomas. 1972.

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