sarcoid tissues, were determined just before Kveim testing and five weeks later. The same indirect haemagglutination technique (IHA) was used as before. The results are to be seen in the table.

The number of the high titres (≥ 16) was approximately the same as in the earlier study. Rises of more than two dilutions were seen in six cases, but falls of more than two dilutions were encountered in two cases. It seems evident, therefore, that Kveim testing had hardly any influence on the mycoplasma titres.

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Modification of an Incident Light Microscope for Fluorescence

Since our technical method appeared (*J. clin. Path.*, 27, 253-254), we have been able to examine the new barrier filters now produced by E. Leitz (Instruments) Ltd. These have improved optical characteristics and they can be used efficiently with sharp cut-off exciter filters of the interference type.

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Book reviews

The Prevention of Laboratory Acquired Infection By C. H. Collins, E. G. Hartley, and R. Pilsworth. Public Health Laboratory Service Monograph Series No. 6. (Pp. vii + 59; illustrated. 50p.) London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1974.

No. 6 in the Public Health Laboratory Service Monograph Series is a strictly practical book written by authors with a knowledge of the risks run and the compromises which have to be made by all who undertake laboratory work. The relative risks of the various procedures are realistically assessed and suggestions are given of how they may be minimized.

There is a section on the source of equipment referred to in the text, a valuable review of primate disease hazards, suggestions for protective inoculations for laboratory workers, and a large bibliography and list of references. At 50 pence no laboratory can afford to be without a copy and a companion manual on laboratory hazards other than infection would be valuable.

M. PATRICIA JEVONS

Bacteremia. Laboratory and Clinical Aspects Edited by Alex C. Sonnenwirth (Pp. xiii + 106; illustrated. \$7.95.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

This small book contains six chapters by different authors. The editor introduces the subject, with data which confirm the increased incidence of bacteraemia in hospitals in the United States, and then follow four contributions in which laboratory aspects rather than clinical are prominently discussed. Finally there is a useful review of the infection hazard of intravenous infusions.

The papers are amplified contributions to a symposium held by the American Society for Microbiology in 1971. The book has the weaknesses and the strengths of such publications. It cannot be regarded either as a reference work, as details of methods are not given, or as a comprehensive review of the subject; in particular clinical considerations are not well covered. The material in some sections has by now been presented in almost identical or in extended form in readily available journals. On the other

hand, it is stimulating to meet the different approaches of the authors, and there is much of interest here for clinical bacteriologists — not least a critical review of the blood culture practices of a number of proficient laboratories in the United States, which mainly depend on classical methods rather than more recently introduced techniques such as the use of hypertonic media or membrane filtration, which are presented in other chapters in the book.

D. C. E. SPELLER

Current Techniques for Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing Edited by Albert Balows (American Lecture Series). (Pp. xiii + 173; illustrated. \$13.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1974.

Antibiotic sensitivity tests are amongst the most frequently but least well performed tests in the diagnostic laboratory. This book, which is one of the American Lecture Series, reports the papers given at a symposium on this subject in Chicago in 1972.

The various techniques which are available for testing the antibiotic sensitivity of fast growing aerobes are described by their protagonists and the advantages and disadvantages of each discussed. There is an interesting contribution on the testing of anaerobes which is an increasingly important part of laboratory work.

The one message from all the papers is that adequate control of antibiotic media, and inoculum is essential and the role of the FDA and NCCLS in the standardization of the techniques is the basis of two of the contributions.

This book is concerned with techniques and the possibilities of automation are explored. It is a pity in the reviewer's opinion that none of the discussion of this symposium is reported. It is a book for the shelves of those laboratories whose library funds run to \$13.75.

M. PATRICIA JEVONS