Figure Bone marrow appearances showing multilobed erythroblast nuclei and basophilic stippling.

Book reviews

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This emphasizes an important therapeutic point although the megloblasts in the cases of Saary *et al* appear to be in a different class of bizarreness.—Ed.

Guide to the Laboratory Diagnosis of Trachoma. Prepared by the participants in a WHO Symposium. (Pp. 40; 16 figures; Sw. Fr. 12.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1975.

This booklet is intended to provide 'a system of recommended procedures for use especially in the diagnosis of trachoma in countries where . . . laboratory facilities may be limited'. Methods are given for collecting specimens, detecting inclusion bodies by ordinary and fluorescence microscopy, isolating *Chlamydia*, and typing strains. The amount of detail makes this a useful working manual; but sophisticated techniques such as the use of irradiated cell cultures for isolation and serotyping by microimmunofluorescence are over-emphasized at the expense of simpler methods such as iodine-staining of inclusions and isolation in unirradiated cells. One of the most valuable features is the set of good colour photographs of Giemsa-stained inclusion bodies and other intracytoplasmic objects that may be mistaken for them.

L. H. COLLIER

Human Viral Hepatitis. By A.J. Zuckerman. (Pp. x + 422; illustrated, \$49.95) Amsterdam: North Holland Publishing Company. 1975.

The second edition of *Human Viral Hepatitis* is twice the length of the first, which appeared only three years ago as *Hepatitis Associated Antigens and Viruses*. The new title does not reflect a major change in approach. The original material has been revised and pruned, while the general balance of the book has been improved by its expansion to include a description of the newly recognized particles found in the faeces of patients with hepatitis A.

As before, each chapter consists of a review of the published work on a limited topic, and the reference lists will provide useful guides to the English language literature. The new illustrations are well chosen but several of the electron micrographs of hepatitis B show similar features and could be deleted. The reviews are written from an essentially academic standpoint and consist largely of abstracts of the findings reported in individual

papers. This approach inhibits the expression of wider reaching ideas, and the book will be more useful to those wanting information on specific points than to the reader seeking either an introduction or a guide to progress in the field as a whole. It is therefore a pity that a more detailed index has not been provided.

The pace of hepatitis research shows no sign of slackening, and no doubt reprints are already accumulating in Professor Zuckerman's files for the next edition. Only the very rich will therefore want to purchase such an expensive volume themselves rather than use it for reference in their institution's library.

YVONNE COSSART

Nuclear Medicine in Clinical Pediatrics. Edited by Hirsch Handmaker and Jerold M. Lowenstein. (Pp. 296; illustrated; \$22.50.) New York: The Society of Nuclear Medicine. 1975.

It is only a few years since radiotherapists used to query the use of radioisotope tests in patients undergoing deep x-ray therapy. It is interesting that one can now write a volume exclusively on the use of radioisotope tests in children, most with benign conditions. Nevertheless caution is still very much in order and therefore this book is a welcome addition to the literature since it neatly sets out the indications, applications, and limitations of nuclear medicine procedures in the paediatric situation.

The particular problem of potential radiation hazards is clearly set out in a 22-page chapter concentrating on radiobiology and dosimetry. It briefly reviews the potential hazards and quite rightly points to the necessity of keeping to the lowest level which will produce an answer rather than the lowest possible level. As in all medical situations the risk of a procedure must be balanced against the benefit. The chapter is particularly valuable in that it gives an easy reference for risk estimates, thyroid dose, and radiation doses from specific radio-pharmaceuticals in children according to weight. In addition, at the end of the book are more useful tables of suggested radionuclide activities for paediatric procedures, as well as other tables giving blood volumes and organ weights related to body weight or age.

The main part of the book consists of 12 chapters, each on an individual organ dealing in a very practical manner with the diseases encountered in children and

their appropriate radioisotope functional or imaging tests. Although similar information is available in many of the numerous textbooks available nowadays, it is convenient to have the information so clearly set out and well illustrated. Unusually in a multi-author volume, the presentation is relatively uniform. Inevitably there are a few gaps but these do not detract from the overall favourable impression. It should appeal to the general physician and surgeon as well as to those involved in radioisotope diagnosis and paediatrics.

V. R. MCCREADY

The Principles of Human Biochemical Genetics, 2nd revised edition. By Harry Harris. (Pp. xiv + 473; illustrated; \$20.50.) Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company. 1975.

When the first edition of this book appeared five years ago it became obvious that it was going to be an extremely valuable introduction to the subject of human biochemical genetics. This thoroughly revised and expanded second edition lives up fully to the very high standard set by its predecessor.

The object of Professor Harris' book is to describe both normal and abnormal gene action and to relate primary gene action to the various inherited disorders in man. Starting with a chapter on gene mutations and single amino-acid substitutions, successive chapters deal with the one-gene-one-polypeptide chain principle, the molecular mechanisms of gene duplications, deletions and abnormal crossing over, and genetic mutations which affect the rate of protein synthesis. Subsequent chapters deal with qualitative and quantitative variations of enzymes, inborn errors of metabolism, the blood group substances, and population genetics. The book is beautifully written, and complex concepts are presented with great clarity. There are many excellent illustrations and it is right up to date with many references from the year of publication.

On looking through the index of this book it is interesting to reflect just how much has been learned about gene action from careful studies on inherited diseases, particularly those of the blood. Because the book is so clinically orientated it makes a superb introduction to the field of human biochemical genetics for all workers in clinical and laboratory specialities. The author and publishers

cannot be praised too highly for this excellent publication; it remains by far the best introduction to the difficult and complex field of human genetics.

D. J. WEATHERALL

Notice

A New Nomenclature

A task force appointed by the International Committee on Thrombosis and Haemostasis has recommended to the Committee the adoption of a new nomenclature for the 'factor-VIII-related-activities'. An 'on-the-line' system of nomenclature has been recommended for the three major classes of activities related to blood coagulation factor VIII, that is, VIII:C (for the coagulant activity), VIII:AG (for the antigenic activities related to factor VIII), and VIII:WF (for the 'von Willebrand factor' activities related to factor VIII).

Adoption of these recommendations, which are at present before the International Committee, will be deferred for at least one year while the task force receives and considers suggestions for modification.

Anyone who wishes a copy of the full report or wishes to make suggestions to the task force should contact its chairman:

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