
The published proceedings of many scientific meetings are of limited interest to the actual participants and even less so to the general reader. But the publications based on IARC conferences which have so far appeared are a signal exception and the most recent of the series maintains the high standards of its predecessors. The growing use of asbestos, the absence of obvious alternatives, and the grave health hazards associated with excessive exposure make this new book particularly welcome. Pathologists are likely to be most interested in the earlier sections where the various methods used to study the biological effects of asbestos are critically reviewed. The considerable limitations of existing procedures are clearly indicated – whether these apply to quantitative studies on fibres in the tissues assessed in the light microscope, or to qualitative investigations with the electron microscope, or to the continuing problems that surround the histological diagnosis of mesothelioma. The application of histochemistry here seems to be more limited than was originally hoped, but some newer procedures – particularly biochemistry and cytology of pleural fluids – look promising. More general topics follow such as techniques for sampling and identifying different kinds of asbestos fibres and the (decidedly conflicting) results that have accrued from experimental studies. There are several papers on the epidemiology of asbestosis and the neoplasms associated with exposure to the various forms of asbestos: the most disturbing finding is

the considerably increased risk of bronchogenic carcinoma among smokers who are concerned with the manufacture of asbestos products. The enhanced risk of gastrointestinal cancers remains a more open question. Final sections deal with the possible modes of carcinogenic action of asbestos fibres, and the paucity of experimental data is particularly striking. This is, then, a well edited and authoritative account which provides a valuable source of reference.

RICHARD CARTER

Guidelines for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Cholera. Prepared by the WHO Bacterial Diseases Unit (Pp. 23, Sw. fr. 55). Geneva: World Health Organization, 1974. Available through HMSO, London. Few bacteriologists in this country are familiar with *Vibrio cholerae*. They will welcome therefore the publication of this small booklet which deals concisely but very adequately with the bacteriological diagnosis of cholera. It includes a useful appendix of media and special techniques.

A list of corrigenda draws attention to errors in pages 12, 15, and 22.

W. J. BURSTON

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The information in the Journal states that these transparency are to be obtained from Dr Roger Pugh at St Paul's Hospital. This is, in fact, no longer correct. Application should be made to Dr J. Burston, Department of Histopathology, Central Laboratory, St Mary's General Hospital, Milton Road, Portsmouth PO3 6AG