

graphs. There is much new material, notably on Gram-negative and viral pneumonias and on the pulmonary vasculitides. The section on less frequent pulmonary tumours and tumour-like conditions is particularly useful. Excellent gross and microphotographs are an important feature, but although the ultrastructure of the normal lung is well illustrated, relatively few electron micrographs appear in relation to particular lesions. The synoptic overview of Professor Spencer and his lucid style are strengths of the book, which make it particularly suitable for those preparing for examinations, and as a bench reference book for the diagnostic pathologist. As in other single-author reference texts that have successfully run to several editions, there are a few areas, for example, 'shock lung', where the text is more superficial. Nevertheless this book remains overall the 'best buy' for a pulmonary textbook in a diagnostic laboratory.

The production is up to the normal, high standard of Pergamon Press but the book is now in a two-volume format. This makes for easy handling, but only volume 2 is indexed, and this is a minor irritation, which the publishers might have avoided in view of the relatively high price, and which they should correct if there are to be reprints.

G. SLAVIN

**Notes on Medical Virology.** 6th edition. By Morag C. Timbury, with a Foreword by J. H. Subak-Sharpe. (Pp. 138; illustrated; £2.00) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1978.

This book is based on a lecture course given to medical students. It is not only excellently suited for students of medicine but also for clinicians, pathologists, and medical laboratory technicians, or indeed for anyone who wants an up-to-date account of the salient features of medical virology.

The book provides a comprehensive introduction to the basic concepts of virology, commonly used laboratory tests for diagnosing viral infections as well as clinical and epidemiological aspects of the main viruses of medical relevance. It also deals with organisms such as chlamydiae, rickettsiae, and mycoplasmas, which are not viruses but are traditionally dealt with by virologists.

The book is written in a lucid and concise style aided by useful diagrams and tables. It is not intended as a detailed

textbook, and a list of recommended references is included at the end. This could have been made more extensive and should perhaps also have included the main sources of relevant reviews and journals.

The popularity of this book is shown by the fact that this is the sixth edition since 1967. It now appears in a new format, which looks better than the earlier editions. The text is revised and improved, with the addition of new information. The price has been kept remarkably low in these days of expensive books. It is an excellent book of notes, clearly presented, informative, and inexpensive, which can be highly recommended.

GUDRUN AGNARSDOTTIR

**Kupffer Cells and Other Liver Sinusoidal Cells.** (Proceedings of the International Kupffer Cell Symposium held in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, 4-7 September 1977.) Edited by E. Wisse and D. L. Knok. (Pp. xii + 544; illustrated; \$68.75, Dfl. 158.00). Amsterdam, New York, Oxford: Elsevier/North-Holland Biomedical Press. 1977.

The publication of symposium proceedings is a dicey game, so many of the resulting books are dreary compilations of obsolete papers, randomly arranged and expensively packaged. This one is different. It has successfully avoided all the major pitfalls. Firstly, it is highly original, being the proceedings of the first ever international symposium devoted entirely to Kupffer cells. Secondly, it was published rapidly, none of it is out of date. Thirdly, it seems to have been edited properly; indeed, the editors are to be congratulated for the uniformly high quality of the many contributions, for organising an introduction that introduces, and a summary that summarises (both articles of exceptional clarity), and for providing a comprehensive and fascinating Kupffer cell bibliography. In all, there are 50 papers, ranging from speculative essays to detailed experimental descriptions.

The book opens with a splendid historical review by Dr Aterman, which provides a suitable setting for the subsequent science. Just over half way Dr Ian Carr provides some light relief with his short review of Kupffer cells viewed, as he says, from a distance. In eight pages he manages to refer to Masters and Johnson, the ball at Kirriemuir, and Pontius Pilate (strange bedfellows these) and finishes

with what has to be the worst bit of doggerel ever published. One can, however, forgive that mangled bit of verse for the erudition and commonsense detectable between the bad jokes.

The book is divided into five main topics: microscopy (some of which is very pretty), pathology, biochemistry, reticuloendothelial function, and cell population dynamics. Each topic is well served by the contributors, who include just about every eminent name in the field. This is more than just the successful proceedings of a successful symposium; it marks an important milestone in studies of Kupffer cells and could become a standard work of reference, although, like most good books, it will be restricted by its price to the shelves of institute libraries.

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