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Requests for reprints to: Dr James J. Szwed, Wishard Memorial Hospital, Renal Section, OPW 439, 1001 West 10th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

The February 1979 Issue

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The priority test request form A. R. HENDERSON

An approach to quality and performance control in a computer-assisted clinical chemistry laboratory P. E. UNDRILL AND S. C. FRAZER

Urinary total porphyrins by ion exchange analysis: Reference values for the normal range and remarks on preformed porphyrins in acute porphyria urine J. FOGSTRUP AND T. K. WITH

An interfering factor in the automated analysis of calcium P. GOSLING AND H. G. SAMMONS

Serum protein profile in sickle cell disease U. P. ISICHEI

Comparison of enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) technique and complement-fixation test for estimation of cytomegalovirus IgG antibody J. C. BOOTH, GILLIAN HANNINGTON, T. A. G. AZIZ, AND H. STERN

Comparison of passive haemagglutination and haemagglutination-inhibition techniques for detection of antibodies to rubella virus C. J. BIRCH, B. P. GLAUN, V. HUNT, L. G. IRVING, AND I. D. GUST

Hepatitis Be antigen and antibody in hepatitis B surface antigen positive blood donors A. BARR, S. H. BLACK, C. J. BURRELL, B. DOW, AND I. MACVARISH

Rapid serotyping of groups A, B, and C meningococci by rocket-line immunoelectrophoresis and coagglutination D. DANIELSSON AND P. OLCÉN

Anaerobic organisms in postoperative wounds P. J. SANDERSON, M. W. D. WREN, AND A. W. F. BALDWIN

Effect of pH on sporicidal and microbicidal activity of buffered mixtures of alcohol and sodium hypochlorite JANET E. DEATH AND D. COATES

Anti blood group-M autoantibodies with livedo reticularis, Raynaud's phenomenon, and anaemia J. M. SANGSTER, M. G. KENWRIGHT, M. P. WALKER, AND A. C. PEMBROKE

Periodic acid-Schiff reaction and prognosis in lymphoblastic leukaemia J. S. LILLEYMAN, V. MILLS, P. J. SUGDEN, AND J. A. BRITTON

A rapid method for electron microscopic examination of blood cells ANTONIO COPPOLA

A comparison of thiomersal and 50% alcohol as preservatives in urinary cytology M. E. BEYER-BOON, P. W. ARENTZ, AND R. S. KIRK

Gastrin cells and fasting serum gastrin levels in duodenal ulcer patients JUAN PIRIS AND R. WHITEHEAD

Histological appearances of the gastric mucosa 15-27 years after partial gastrectomy ANN SAVAGE AND S. JONES

A new technique for Gram staining paraffin-embedded tissue KRÆSTEN ENGBÆK, KIRSTEN STÆHR JOHANSEN, AND MERETE EGHOLM JENSEN

Technical methods

Storage of reagent platelets for anti-platelet antibody testing in the ⁵¹Cr platelet lysis assay G. E. LIZAK AND F. C. GRUMET

Use of sheep erythrocytes as solid phase supports in double antibody immunoassay systems JOHN KANE AND ERIC GOWLAND

Demonstration of creatine phosphokinase in human myocardial slices R. J. TRICKEY AND M. J. DAVIES

Letter to the Editor

Book reviews

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- Gillespie, W. A., Sellin, M. A., Gill, P., Stephens, M., Tuckwell, L. A., and Hilton, A. L. (1978). Urinary tract infection in young women, with special reference to *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*. *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, **31**, 348-350.
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- Requests for reprints to: Dr J. H. Darrell, Department of Bacteriology, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, London W12 0HS, UK.

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- 3 Biochemical tests for the assessment of fetoplacental
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A. H. GOWENLOCK

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- 38 Transport of specimens for clinical chemistry an-
alysis November 1977 P. WILDING, J. F. ZILVA, and
C. E. WILDE
- 39 A scheme for the evaluation of diagnostic kits May
1978 P. H. LLOYD

tion to clinical haematology and were deservedly popular with undergraduates and trainees in general medicine. The late Professor de Gruchy's approach to clinical investigation was widely adopted by ward staff, and sections of the book have been reproduced in countless student essays. The new editors have understandably retained the original formula while making what they describe as selective alterations to include new developments without destroying the character of the book.

The text still contains a great deal of valuable clinical advice, and the descriptions of signs and symptoms are unrivalled. So much of the book's original content has been retained, however, that the emphasis on older tests, such as the tourniquet (Hess) test, gives a somewhat dated approach to problem solving. Advice on treatment is also sometimes out of date (dental extraction in haemophilia without fibrinolytic blockade), is poorly argued (tailing off warfarin), or is inappropriately selective (advice on cytotoxic combinations in acute myeloid leukaemia).

It is hoped that the editors will undertake more extensive rewriting in future editions to include a critical assessment of modern diagnostic tests and an evaluation of controlled clinical trials of therapy. There is clearly a place for a compact textbook of haematology with a clinical bias, and the potential of the current text is obvious. The present edition, despite these limitations, is likely to prove popular and to be widely used by ward staff.

J. STUART

Handbook of Clinical Neurology, Volume 34. Infections of the Nervous System. Part II. Edited by P. J. Vinken and G. W. Bruyn in collaboration with H. L. Klawans. (Pp. xv + 686; illustrated; US \$124.50, Dfl. 280.00.) Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company, 1978.

This is the second of three volumes dealing with infections of the nervous system, in a series of 36 volumes. This volume is aimed primarily at neurologists but gives much information of value to neurosurgeons, ophthalmologists, paediatricians and paediatric pathologists, neuropathologists, and virologists.

There are 36 chapters and 48 authors who represent nearly all continents,

although more than half are from North America. The introductory chapters on fundamental aspects of virology and pathogenesis and immunological aspects of viral infections are basic to the understanding of the following chapters. Thereafter poliomyelitis, coxsackie and echovirus infections, Herpes simplex, varicella-zoster, EB virus, cytomegalovirus, the arenaviruses (ie, lymphocytic choriomeningitis and Lassa fever viruses), rabies, rubella, slow virus infections, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, rickettsial infection, tick-borne typhus, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are considered in detail. In view of the data that have become available in the last three decades, a chapter on the teratogenic effects of viruses is necessarily included. Other chapters consider those illnesses in which a virological basis is suspected but not yet proved, such as multiple sclerosis, cat-scratch disease, Behçet's disease, etc. The volume ends with a chapter on Carrion's disease, Oroya fever, and neurobartonellosis.

Some chapters are so comprehensive that they are more suitable for textbooks of general medicine, but this is necessary at times to introduce the reader to the general nature of many viral infections, before concentrating on the possible neurological manifestations. The characteristics and properties of the viruses and other infective agents are given in great detail. Although this aspect of each chapter is a necessary inclusion, it is almost overdone at times in a book in which the avowed aim is clinical neurology. Some readers will welcome this feature, however. Modern investigative methods are referred to in appropriate sections, such as EEG, EMG, electro-oculograms, and electro-retinograms; those of a laboratory nature include fluorescent-antibody, immunoperoxidase, electrophoresis and radioimmunoassay methods, ferritin techniques in electron microscopy, tissue cultures, co-cultivation experiments, T and B cells, lymphocyte blast transformation tests, macrophage inhibition tests, cell-mediated immunity and cytotoxicity, humoral immunity, etc. Pathology is given wide coverage and includes neuropathology as well as neonatal, paediatric, adult, and ophthalmic pathology when relevant. Illustrations are numerous and of high quality, and, in contrast to Volume 33, there are numerous electron micrographs. Without detracting from these remarks, the reviewer considers that Figs 23-25 of

Chapter 25 should be improved as they seem to be rather out of focus, and Fig. 13 of Chapter 13 should be replaced by one at a higher magnification as the reviewer could not satisfy himself that inclusion bodies of rabies were being illustrated as opposed to remnants of Nissl substance in neurons which were the seat of central chromatolysis. A generous list of references accompanies all chapters. Although antiviral agents for use in treatment are scarcely in their first gestation, it is encouraging to find authentic comments being made about those that are available in the sections on treatment.

This book should be purchased by all departments with an interest in viral infections of the nervous system. The cost, however, is likely to be well beyond the reach of most people's personal pocket, but the quality of production is very high indeed.

J. F. BOYD

Notice

Tumour Markers 1979: Clinical and Biological Aspects

The 7th International Meeting of the International Society for Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine will be held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, UK, 9-14 September 1979. Plenary sessions devoted to biological implications of tumour products, aspects of carcinogenesis, and animal models together with new markers are planned. In addition, clinical aspects with particular respect to lung, breast, and gastrointestinal tract will be discussed. Free papers are invited. Further details from: A. M. Neville, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (London Branch), The Haddow Laboratories, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PX.

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- 64 Histochemical enzyme techniques 1969 I. M. P. DAWSON and M. I. FILIPE (This Broadsheet is illustrated by eight colour transparencies which can be obtained from Dr J. Burston, Department of Histopathology, Central Laboratory, St Mary's General Hospital, Milton Road, Portsmouth PO3 6AG. Price £3.00, including postage.)
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