

Book reviews

A Decade of Viral Hepatitis. Abstracts 1969-79. Comp and ed AJ Zuckerman. (Pp x + 501; no price given. paperback.) Elsevier/North-Holland Biomedical Press. 1980.

This volume presents abstracts of the literature published during the first 10 years of realistic research into human viral hepatitis.

Unfortunately, the abstracts have not been arranged chronologically, and this, taken together with the lack of an author index, means that finding a particular abstract can be difficult. This volume is of outstanding value to those working in the hepatitis field, and it is only to be regretted that more attention was not paid to the convenience of the user.

JUNE D ALMEIDA

Blood Coagulation and Haemostasis. A Practical Guide. 2nd ed. JM Thomson. (Pp 369; illustrated; £15.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

The first edition of this book was published 10 years ago; for practical purposes this second edition is a new book which encompasses all relevant developments in the field of coagulation and haemostasis and affords a very satisfactory blend of up-to-date theoretical knowledge with sound practical advice on modern laboratory techniques.

The book will be of great value to all interested in the field of coagulation and haemostasis. It is well produced and bound in an attractive hardback cover at a reasonable price. All individuals and all departments interested in coagulation and haemostasis should have a copy.

JF DAVIDSON

HLA and Disease: A Comprehensive Review. WE Braun. (Pp 137; £29.75.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

This book is not so much a review, more a bibliography. The introductory chapters on the HLA system, Ir genes, and possible mechanisms are compressed into some 28 pages—not much for the size of the subject! This is inadequate without previous knowledge of the previous status of the HLA system. The remainder of the book deals in very terse form with many of the published HLA and disease associations. There is little or no critical analysis of these facts, just a dry, factual listing of

information. This may make the book useful as a reference source, but anyone looking for enlightenment on the putative role of HLA antigens and disease will be unlikely to find it in this book. Those who merely want the references will find them all in the *HLA and Disease Registry 3rd Report*, edited by Ryder *et al.* (Munksgaard, 1979)—and that comes free of charge to subscribers to *Tissue Antigens*.

HEATHER M DICK

Pathologic Basis of Disease. 2nd ed. SL Robbins and RS Cotran. (Pp xii + 1598; illustrated; £21.50.) WB Saunders. 1979.

The second edition has been considerably changed since the first edition and updated. In particular, the analysis of renal pathology, presumably provided by Cotran himself, is a clear exposition of a rather confused subject. Kumar's analysis of basic immunology is a delight, as indeed is the whole text on general pathology, which covers over 500 pages. The chapters on special pathology are good, too, and beautifully illustrated. Some sections, such as those concerned with bones and joints and the nervous system, are perhaps rather cursorily treated, while that on skeletal muscle certainly needs to be updated. As a whole, however, the book is first-rate.

A major attraction of this book is the way in which Robbins himself seems to jump out of the pages, enthusiastically drawing the attention of the student to particularly interesting points and thus inculcating an enthusiastic interest in pathology. Although this book is essentially a teaching text it will also serve as a useful reference book for practising pathologists.

This new edition will undoubtedly prove as welcome as the last; it more than adequately reflects current trends in clinical medicine and pathology.

JC SLOPER

Aerobic Gram-negative Bronchopneumonias. Ed JP Thys, J Klustersky, and E Yourassowsky. (Pp 183; illustrated; £11.00; \$25.00.) Pergamon Press. 1980.

Problems of the incidence and pathogenesis of bronchopneumonias occurring in hospital, and especially in ITUs, associated with aerobic Gram-negative bacteria (GNB) other than *Haemophilus*

spp, continue to baffle us. This book contains eight papers delivered at a symposium in Brussels in September 1978. Colonisation of the respiratory tract by GNB and reasons for their invasion of lung tissue are discussed by Professor Johanson. Sources and routes of spread are described by Dr Gaya, and clinical aspects and diagnosis of GNB bronchopneumonias are reviewed by Thys *et al.* Host resistance is discussed by Professor Jackson, and antibiotic and immunological approaches to treatment and prophylaxis are examined by Dr Waldvogel and Professor Young respectively. The valuable experience of Yourassowsky *et al.* with transtracheal aspiration is described, and there is a résumé of the work of Klustersky *et al.* on the endotracheal administration of antibiotics.

Unfortunately, this book required a lot more editing than it received, and there is repetition, contradiction, and some unclear statements and tables. The well-known problems of GNB bronchopneumonia require much more experimental work, and perhaps the value of this collection of papers is to demonstrate our lack of knowledge about this important topic.

P SANDERSON

Ultrastructural Pathology. Vol 1. No 1. January-March 1980. Ed-in-chief Jan Vincents Johannessen. Subscription rates: Libraries and institutions in US and Canada \$96.00, elsewhere \$98.50. Individuals in US and Canada \$48.00, elsewhere \$50.50. Four issues per volume, quarterly. McGraw-Hill.

Diagnostic histopathologists using electron microscopy may be faced with a great variety of different tissues involved by a great variety of different disease processes, and the difficulties are increased when the relevant references on the subjects are to be found in many different journals. It is desirable that diagnostic electron microscopists involved in the different fields of pathology should have a common journal as there is a cross-relevance of disease processes from one tissue to another at ultrastructural level as there is at the light microscope level. This new journal is designed to become a forum for new observations and discussion on the ultrastructure of human pathological lesions. To judge by the first issue,