

254: 385). Controls included known IF-IgG positive and negative sera and conjugate alone. The results were assessed by two individuals.

Ten of the 14 sera showed unequivocal positive reactivity at the single dilution tested although the extent of staining varied in individual samples, reflecting differing levels of anti-rubella antibody. The reactivity seen with three additional sera was more difficult to interpret as only a small proportion of infected cells showed weak intracytoplasmic staining. This was, however, absent in negative controls. Only one of the 14 test samples showed no reactivity.

The IF results confirm the ability of ELISA to detect specific rubella antibody in some samples shown to be negative in HI and SRH tests. We do not yet have any information about whether these low levels of antibody are associated with immunity of the patient to rubella infection. We are currently in the process of confirming the incidence of sera that are rubella antibody positive by ELISA and IF but negative by HI and SRH.

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Book reviews

Current Methods of Autopsy Practice. 2nd edition. By J. Ludwig. (Pp. xxii + 724; illustrated; £37.75.) Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1979.

The necropsy seemed to fall into disrepute some years ago in England but there are signs of a revival. This book could be an important member of the resuscitation team even if it only shows how much information can be gained from the study of the cadaver.

It contains a breathtaking amount of information, from an identification chart of 29 different types of heart-valve prosthesis to the normal weights of the seminal vesicles from birth to 15 years. It describes in practical detail all sorts of techniques from the simple opening of the intestine to postmortem cytochemistry and immunopathology, and references are abundant.

Part 1 (226 pages) covers techniques. Part 2 (429 pages) is an encyclopaedia of diseases in chart form, listing procedures and possible findings for each organ. Although much of Part 2 is pretty obvious, I am looking forward to having this volume in the PM room office to keep us a jump ahead of the cleverer clinicians. One's first reaction is that this is an impossibly compendious and probably valueless collectiana of information that is available elsewhere, but after some study I at least came to the conclusion that it could be worth its rather high price.

A. C. HUNT

Parasite Immunology. Vol. 1. Edited by R. J. Terry and A. C. Allison. (Pp. 89; £21 per annum.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

Immunologists and parasitologists are increasingly interested in each others' fields, and the days when a paper on immunity to infection was regarded as eccentric are gone for good. At present there is only a single (American) journal in which such papers are collected. This new journal aims to provide another forum. The first issue comprises four papers on helminths and three on protozoa, but, in future, bacterial, fungal, and viral immunology will also be covered. The editorial board inspires confidence that standards will be high. The journal looks

good and is likely to be required reading for all workers involved in immunity to infection, particularly in departments which cannot afford to take more than a few journals.

The launching of a new journal is always hazardous, and one should not be too surprised that the spring number has come out in August. I understand that three more numbers are planned for 1979, following which there will be at least four, and perhaps six, per year, depending on the flow of papers. This being so, the price of £21 (£26 overseas) per annum does not seem unreasonable. All those interested should welcome and support it.

J. H. L. PLAYFAIR

Mononuclear Phagocytes in the Central Nervous System. By M. Oehmichen. (Pp. vi + 173; illustrated; DM 68, US\$34.) Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1978.

There is still much to be discovered about the phagocytic cells of the body and not least about those in the central nervous system. Dr Oehmichen has, by radio-labelling and by identification through cell-specific antisera, penetrated a little further into a complex subject. He has reached conclusions on the relationships of blood monocytes to perivascular cells, subarachnoid phagocytes, epileptus cells, and progressive microglial cells, leaving only the resting microglia isolated from this branch of the mononuclear phagocytic system, and he has studied the role of trauma and inflammation on the kinetics of these cells. This is an invaluable book for neuropathologists, of course, but also worth some study by all pathologists, especially those who may have to report on the CSF and those elusive 'CSF cells'.

H. E. M. KAY

The Liver and Biliary System in Infants and Children. Edited by R. K. Chandra. (Pp. xii + 341; illustrated; £20.) Edinburgh, London and New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

This 342-page hardback has 19 sections by authors from most parts of the world.

Much of the book is concerned with pathology—chemical, infective, immunological, and anatomical. Most of the sections are written by paediatricians—three only by pathologists but this in no way detracts from its value for the