

mens were collected within seven days of the onset of symptoms, are unable to comment on the claim that IF is the superior test when the specimen is collected before day 7.

The main aim of our paper was to demonstrate that RIA and ELISA are considerably more sensitive than either EM or IF and that the competition between EM and IF is really for third and fourth places.

Because ELISA (with RIA) is the most sensitive test currently available for detecting HRV, and EM is indispensable for the identification of other agents, we now routinely combine these two methods for the diagnosis of virus-associated gastroenteritis.

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Book reviews

Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases. Vol 38. Suppl No. 1. Symposium on Reiter's Syndrome. (Pp v + 162; illustrated; £5.00.) London: British Medical Association. 1979.

Not only is chronic arthritis one of medicine's most puzzling enigmas but, like poor quality pitchblende, there never was a subject where the amount written has revealed so few clues of lasting value. The community of rheumatological investigators, therefore, can be forgiven for having seized so avidly on the link between HKA B27 on the one hand, and ankylosing spondylitis, anterior uveitis, and so-called reactive polyarthritis on the other. This discovery has raised the flagging spirits of clinicians who have felt instinctively that infection has something to do with these varieties of arthritis, and of laboratory investigators who have felt with equal conviction that immune response genes determine individual susceptibility. Reiter's syndrome, therefore, was a felicitous choice for a conference theme because here was a subject into which clinicians, epidemiologists, immunologists, and pathologists could set their teeth with equal gusto. The result is a fascinating medley of observations from all these specialists, grouped round the essential clinical observations concerning HLA B27. Not all the detailed observations of such matters as the radiological appearances of the spine in reactive spondyloarthritis or the indications for various anti-inflammatory drugs will interest clinical pathologists. However, they will find a detailed discussion of the genetic, immunological, and bacteriological concepts surrounding this group of disorders, and thus this book is recommended to clinical pathologists for selective reading.

AM DENMAN

Bone Tumors: Diagnosis, Treatment and Prognosis. AG Huvos. (Pp vii + 478; illustrated; £23.50.) Eastbourne: WB Saunders Ltd. 1979.

Several excellent monographs devoted to bone tumours are in print, and it may be questioned whether or not a further treatise on the same subject is required or is likely to prove a serious competitor for the extant texts. Nevertheless, Dr Huvos' book passes the test. Well-written,

beautifully illustrated, and a mine of information, it is a pleasure to read. All the common and less common types of benign and malignant primary bone tumours are discussed in detail, the terminology adopted being that currently accepted and used by other workers.

For each tumour type, the author considers the clinical features, radiological appearances, gross and microscopic pathology, treatment, and prognosis. In many instances, presentation of the historical background to the evolution of modern concepts and nomenclature adds interest and perspective. There are many excellent radiographic illustrations, photographs of gross specimens, and photomicrographs. The age, sex and anatomical distribution of the tumours is emphasised by the use of numerous diagrams. The histopathological diagnoses and differential diagnoses are discussed in detail, the most important points often being summarised in tabular form. This monograph should prove of great help and interest to radiologists, radiotherapists, surgeons, and medical oncologists, as well as to pathologists. To the histopathologist it can be recommended as a most useful practical guide and a store of valuable information.

NFC GOWING

Nephrology. Ed J Hamburger, J Crosnier and J-P Grünfeld. (Pp xvi + 1393; illustrated; £42.50.) Chichester, New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1979.

The list of more than 100 contributors to this book, gathered from all parts of the world, reads like a nephrology 'Who's Who'! This is a reference book which covers clinical, immunological, and histopathological (including ultrastructural) aspects of renal disease. The sections on exploration of the kidney and treatments will be of limited interest to pathologists but the remaining two-thirds of the book are a mine of information. The text is succinct but, as would be expected from the authority of the contributors, the essential points are brought out. It is just as well that at the end of each chapter there is an impressive list of references, which is commendably up to date, because many readers will wish to refer to original articles to supplement some of the statements which are all too brief. This is inevitable if a book, as wide ranging as this, is to remain of manageable size. The