

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

standard of illustration is high. Every hospital library and every pathologist interested in renal disease will wish to have this book. I forecast that pathologists will have difficulty in preventing clinical colleagues borrowing the laboratory copy. It is unfortunate that the book does not have a more substantial binding for the spine will surely give way with heavy use.

JR TIGHE

**Synopsis of Pathology for the Allied Health Professions.** AF Gardner. (Pp x + 464; \$34.50.) Charles C Thomas. 1979.

There is a continuing need for new books with a fresh approach to the teaching of one or all disciplines of pathology to nurses and to other non-medical health workers. This book covers histopathology only, with a few disastrous excursions into other realms. It is old-fashioned and is marked by errors of principle and of detail. As an example of its unacceptable approach, the chapter on 'Congenital anomalies and hereditary diseases' consists mainly of lists of rarities (with many mistakes) and does not mention 'enzyme'. The book contains no diagrams and has long lists of untitled and undirected pre-1974 references. It cannot be recommended for any reader.

DN BARON

**Pathogenic Streptococci.** Proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases, held in September 1978. Ed MT Parker. (Pp 296; illustrated; £21.) Reedbooks Ltd. 1979.

The diminished clinical rôle of *Streptococcus pyogenes* in developed countries and the continued sensitivity of all isolates to penicillin have distracted the attention of many clinicians and microbiologists from the continuing importance of streptococci as agents of human disease. This handsome volume, which brings together researches carried out in many parts of the world, should help to redress the balance. There is a large section on streptococci of group A, with papers on cellular and extracellular constituents, on pathogenesis, on the immune response to these organisms, on clinical infections and their transmission, and on the specific sequelae, rheumatic fever and glomerulonephritis. There are sections on group B streptococci (long known as pathogens of cattle but only

recently recognised as agents of human disease, including meningitis in infants), on pneumococci, on *Streptococcus mutans*—its rôle in dental caries and the possible control of caries by immunisation—on the streptococci of infective endocarditis, on classification, and on antibiotic resistance, including some interesting papers on resistance transfer. The reasons why streptococci of group A have a relatively small tendency to produce resistant variants, and why their resistance to erythromycin is still rare, though first reported 20 years ago, remain mysterious. The book is packed with information and illustrates the wide range of current studies and ideas on a group of organisms which was discovered 100 years ago.

EJL LOWBURY

**Processes in Pathology.** An Introduction for Students of Medicine. MJ Taussig. (Pp x + 456; illustrated; £6.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

Teachers of the principles of pathology will greatly enjoy this supposedly 'introductory' textbook of nearly 500 pages. It is well and interestingly written and is lavishly supplied with excellent diagrams. However, the few illustrations included are of less value; they are perhaps epitomised by the single electron micrograph which, with its caption, is devoid of any indication of scale.

There are only five sections, and to this extent the scope of the book is limited. The sections concerned with 'Inflammation' and 'Circulation' are clear and succinct and might perhaps be regarded as suitable introductions to pathology for students in medicine. They are, however, unbalanced. For example, in the case of tissue regeneration, several pages are devoted to chalones, while in the case of hypertension, there are several pages concerned with the kallikrein-kinin-prostaglandin system. The question arises whether students of medicine can or should assimilate at an early stage of their career the amount of detailed and at times highly-specialised information provided by this book. Although Taussig certainly appreciates this difficulty when he states that a short book on general pathology is a contradiction in terms, his enthusiasm for new information does seem somewhat incompatible with the requirements of an introductory text.

The three other sections of the book are

devoted to 'Immunology', 'Neoplasia', and the 'Genetic Basis of Disease'. These are written at greater length than the rest and should constitute an invaluable introduction to these subjects for research workers entering pathology. They reflect Taussig's special expertise as an immunologist in the Institute of Animal Physiology at Babraham. Unfortunately, however, these sections, like the rest of the book, are accompanied by a bibliography which is cursory and clearly aimed at introductory-course students rather than at those who might wish to verify some of the points made in the text.

Of the more contentious statements, those which refer to regeneration merit comment. There is, for example, the statement that 'when muscle tissue is lost through injury, the mass is not regenerated'. Yet skeletal muscle undoubtedly regenerates well after all forms of injury, as workers like Weber, Volkmann, Le Gros Clark, and many others have repeatedly shown throughout the past century. Shortcomings of this kind are not, however, evident in the three more detailed sections, which are excellent.

Taussig clearly envisaged a text that would complement, for example, Florey's *General Pathology*. He has set his sights too low. We need in this country a detailed Handbook of General Pathology, and three of Taussig's chapters, if expanded to include adequate bibliographies and reviews of the historical and methodological aspects of the subject analysed, would make an important contribution to such a handbook.

JC SLOPER

#### Correction

Use of human embryo lung fibroblasts to detect a heat labile toxin of *Escherichia coli* from children. HELEN HOLZEL (*J Clin Pathol* 1979;32:1216). In Methods (3), line 3, the cell count should read '6 × 10<sup>4</sup>/ml'.