

leptospirosis based on direct dark-ground examination alone is not to be recommended. This applies not only to the routine diagnostic laboratory with limited experience of leptospire but also to those institutes engaged in research or vaccine development and control work in which the use of experimental animals is required.

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Reference

- ¹ Rahman M, Macis FR. Pseudoleptospire in blood culture. *J Clin Pathol* 1979;32: 1226-7.

Book reviews

Atlas of Clinical Hematology. 3rd ed. H Begemann and J Rastetter. (Pp xvii + 275; illustrated; US\$163.90, DM 298.) Springer-Verlag. 1979.

This expensive, high-quality atlas will add prestige to any departmental bookcase but for the same reason it may be found less often by the trainee's elbow on the microscope bench. Many of the beautiful watercolour reproductions of the earlier editions have been retained and these, because of their size, tend to dominate the atlas. Conversely, the magnification of the Pappenheim-stained photomicrographs is sometimes too low to enable the cells to be identified clearly. Although a few painted illustrations are of value to the inexperienced, when they are widely used there is a danger that the trainee requires to learn two types of morphology—the photomicrograph and also the artist's impression of it. For those who like this approach, however, the atlas is of unique value.

There are sections on tumour cell morphology, parasitology, and transmission (but not scanning) electron microscopy, and cytochemical reactions are included in most of the sections. Although marrow trephine biopsies have become a regular feature of modern haematological practice, the atlas is restricted to marrow aspirates with a one-sentence reference to the widely used Jamshidi biopsy technique. There are, however, useful illustrations of spleen and lymph node aspirates and touch preparations. The English translation of the text is of limited appeal since it retains some old terminology with German nomenclature ('partly englished' to quote a table).

J STUART

Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics. Vol XX. 'Disorders of Calcium and Phosphate, Metabolism in Childhood and Adolescence'. HE Harrison and HC Harrison. (Pp 314; illustrated; £17.25.) WB Saunders. 1979.

The authors' aim has been to coordinate present physiological knowledge with clinical experience.

After chapters concerned with bone, and calcium and phosphate homeostasis, a further six chapters cover hypocalcaemic states, hypercalcaemic states, rickets and

osteomalacia, osteopenic and osteosclerotic disorders of bone, urinary tract stones, and ectopic calcification. Each chapter ends with quite extensive but carefully selected lists of references grouped under several headings for ease of referral.

The Harrisons have based this volume on their own many years of experience in the wards and the laboratory. Their personal approach to the problems of the sick child show on every page, and many tables and graphs refer to individual patients whom they have seen. Many well-chosen and beautifully reproduced photographs are included and these enhance the value of the book. An unusual feature is the inclusion of several long case histories at the end of most of the chapters. These will be of particular interest to those without a medical background.

Although the major use of this book will be by paediatricians, it is a volume which those who are providing a clinical biochemistry service for children will wish to have available for reference. Clinical problems concerned with calcium and phosphate metabolism are frequently complex, and the role of the laboratory is important. The authors have produced a volume of interest to clinical and laboratory workers alike. It is highly recommended.

BARBARA E CLAYTON

British Medical Bulletin. Vol 36, No 1. 'Chemical Carcinogenesis'. Ed P Brookes. (Pp 104; illustrated; £6.) British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1Y 2AA. 1980.

It is interesting to compare this issue of the *British Medical Bulletin* with earlier issues published in 1947, 1958, and 1964 on the same subject. The discovery of ways in which chemicals of widely differing structure can be converted in the body to electrophilic metabolites which react with genetically significant macromolecules in cells has been the most important single development. Next to this has been the development of highly sensitive methods for detecting interactions between chemicals or their metabolites with DNA using microorganisms. Several of the contributions

discuss these and related advances. Attention is presently turning away from the fact of DNA damage by chemical agents and towards the nature of the damage and the possibilities for its accurate or inaccurate repair. Evidence is accumulating that the apparent organotrophy of some carcinogens depends on the relative adequacy of DNA repair enzymes in the cells of different tissues. Although advances at the molecular biological level have been spectacular there is a growing realisation that the new insights relate only to the first, or initiating, stage of the carcinogenic process and that other factors, broadly referred to as 'tumour-promoting' or 'modifying' factors, might in the end prove to be more important. Professor E Boyland, in a historical review, stresses this point, and the theme is taken up in the editor's introduction.

Other articles address issues such as carcinogenesis by fungal products, mineral fibres, or a combination of bracken fern and a papilloma virus. Surprisingly, there are no articles on the roles of hormones, and the only article concerning food is on the significance of metabolism by gut bacteria in human carcinogenesis.

Many of the contributors to this issue of the *Bulletin* worked with the late Professor Sir Alexander Haddow and pay tribute to advances in knowledge made under his leadership and to the inspiration of his vision.

FJC ROE

Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. Vols 1 and 2. Ed GL Mandell, RG Douglas Jr, and JE Bennett. (Pp 2316 + indexes; illustrated; £45.00.) John Wiley and Sons. 1979.

This massive (5.1 kg) treatise is intended to be a definitive work on clinical infectious disease. As all but four of the 172 contributors are from North America the subject coverage reflects the admirable synthesis of microbiology, medicine, epidemiology, and pharmacology that characterises infectious disease practice there. The focus is on information relevant to patient care decisions rather than laboratory diagnosis.

As with any multi-author work of this scope, the quality of writing varies, and some tendency to a strictly North American view is evident. For microbiologists these volumes could serve as a definitive clinical reference work and

would be less expensive than a library of monographs. They are no substitute for one's own bibliography of articles and reviews on special subjects.

H ELLIOTT LARSON

Pathology of the Liver. Ed RNM MacSween, PP Anthony, and PJ Scheuer. (Pp vi + 458; illustrated; £27.) Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

This book, written by a distinguished international group under British editors, fills a long felt need for a comprehensive, systematic text on the pathology of the liver. Each chapter is an authoritative and readable account of some aspect of liver disease. In the initial chapters there is useful background information on liver structure and pathophysiology, and among the succeeding predictable chapter headings are some topics which are sometimes neglected, including childhood afflictions, metabolic errors, and liver pathology associated with diseases of other organs.

This book in no way supplants the deservedly popular manual on liver biopsies previously published by Professor Scheuer; its remit is wider, and the two volumes complement each other. This is an essentially practical book whose natural place is close to the microscope and will be an invaluable *vade-mecum* for all histopathologists. I believe it will also be used by clinical hepatologists and it should be found not only in the pathologists' reporting room but also in the medical library.

Although reasonably priced, the publishers have produced a handsome volume which is a pleasure to handle. I must express one disappointment. The photographs are not up to the customary standards of the publishers. They have suffered in reproduction, and a lack of contrast makes some less informative than they should be.

HM CAMERON

Interpretation of Biopsy of Endometrium. A Blaustein. (Pp ix + 197; 185 illustrations; \$34.) Raven Press. 1979.

This monograph, which takes the form of a primer and atlas of endometrial pathology, potentially fulfils a real need for few tissues are more frequently biopsied than is the endometrium. The text is generally adequate, though far too little attention is paid to the endometrial

patterns which characterise the quite common luteal insufficiency syndrome.

A book of this type must, however, stand or fall on its illustrations. While many here are of high quality, a significant proportion suffer from defects in focusing, magnification, contrast, evenness of illumination, and arrowing. Largely because of these faults in illustration this book is disappointing and does not fully satisfy the need for a simple text and atlas of endometrial biopsy interpretation.

H FOX

Manual for Rapid Laboratory Viral Diagnosis. JD Almeida, P Atanasiu, DW Bradley, PS Gardner, J Maynard, AW Schuurs, A Voller, and RH Yolken. (Pp 48; illustrated; Sw Fr 6 Paperback.) World Health Organization. 1979.

This booklet was put together by a committee of laboratory workers who have extensive experience of the methods described. It contains short chapters describing in outline the technical procedures for directly recognising the presence of viral particles or virus antigens in clinical specimens together with a short bibliography. This book gives a good sense of the present status in this moving field and a good idea of what all the tests involve.

DAJ TYRRELL

Metabolic Control and Disease. 8th ed. Ed PK Bondy and LE Rosenberg. (Pp xviii + 1870; illustrated; £42.75.) WB Saunders. 1980.

This is the latest edition of a book previously published as *Duncan's Diseases of Metabolism*. The 44 contributors are predominantly American and almost half are new since the last edition. The change in title reflects a change in approach since 1974. The book is now even more firmly based on underlying physiological and biochemical principles. It is divided into three parts. The first, entitled 'Mechanisms of Metabolic Control', contains a new chapter on the molecular basis for hormone action as well as others, rewritten from the last edition, dealing with relevant basic mechanisms and inborn errors of metabolism. Part 2 covers some disorders of intermediary metabolism, including a new chapter on the mucopolysaccharidoses. Part 3 is entitled 'Endocrinology' and includes excellent chapters on water