

Book reviews

Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods. 16th edn. Ed JB Henry. Vols 1 and 2. (Pp lxiii + 2107; illustrated; £40.) WB Saunders. 1979.

The editor of this two-volume work on clinical pathology has been ably assisted by two associate editors, three assistant editors, and 75 contributors.

The range of work is very wide, encompassing in six parts chemical pathology and clinical chemistry, medical microscopy and examination of other body fluids, haematology and coagulation, immunology and immunopathology, medical microbiology, and administration of the clinical laboratory. Each chapter is self-contained with a number of useful references at the end of each. While there is an element of methodology 'cook-book' descriptions of techniques are minimal. Much effort is spent in explaining the fundamentals of techniques used, in providing tabulated, factual information, and in describing the clinical use of the laboratory information acquired. In addition to chapters on conventional subjects, the reviewer enjoyed those chapters concerned with sources of variations in laboratory measurements, reference values, and administration of the clinical laboratory which, in his view, are unique contributions to laboratory manuals.

What is rather surprising in this book is the organisation of Part 2, entitled Medical Microscopy and Examination of Other Fluids. This includes chapters on pregnancy tests and evaluation of placental function, amniotic fluid and antenatal diagnosis, sputum, malabsorption, and cytogenetics. Todd, Sanford, and Davidsohn has been published for 70 years but perhaps it would be appropriate for the 17th edition to give up this time-hallowed category and to redistribute the chapters into their appropriate sections.

It is a credit to the editors and their contributors that such modern, well-written, and succinct accounts of problems and procedures in clinical laboratories have been compressed into such a modest space. The standard of paper, printing, and illustrations is very high. Continuous numbering of the two volumes has enabled duplication of the entire very accurate index in both volumes. It would be helpful in a later edition if the extent of the pages in the two volumes could be printed on the first page of the index.

While the composition of this book reflects the outlook and work of the clinical

pathology laboratory in North America, it is informative reading for those who work in more specialised laboratories in the UK. No doubt there are some practices described which are out of date and some omissions which would draw criticisms from specialists; nevertheless this overview of clinical pathology has little to equal it. Though this book is probably too expensive for individuals it still has its place in the hospital laboratory and hospital library.

MG RINSLER

Fetal and Maternal Medicine. Ed EJ Quilligan and N Kretchmer. (Pp 681; illustrated; £25.35.) John Wiley and Sons. 1980.

This book is one of several recent publications emphasising the area of perinatal medicine. While not all-inclusive, it is designed to encompass the most important aspects, focusing on those areas that have the greatest concern for the practitioner. The subjects covered in more detail are those determined by the editors to be of current clinical significance.

The book is divided into three sections: Basic concepts in perinatal medicine—including chapters on Physiological changes in pregnancy, Genetics, and Immunology; Systemic problems in perinatal medicine such as infection, drugs, teratology, and fetal distress; and Specific diseases affecting mother and child, including hypertension, erythroblastosis fetalis, low birthweight, thyroid and parathyroid disorders, and haemoglobinopathies.

Each subject is discussed by both a paediatrician and an obstetrician. There is an impressive list of American authors, all acknowledged expert practitioners in their specific fields.

The lists of references at the end of each chapter are not unduly long and include basic and key review references from both sides of the Atlantic.

This book, which is not too unwieldy in size but covers a great deal of material, will be of interest to obstetricians, paediatricians, and clinical pathologists involved in perinatal services and will be of value to medical students and nurses.

ELIZABETH A LETSKY

Interpretation of MICs

This booklet is now available, free, from Seward Laboratory, UAC House, Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UG, telephone 01-261-1050.

Notices

Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini

The Advanced Course on monoclonal antibodies and ultrasensitive immunoassay in human diagnosis and monitoring of therapy and the 3rd International Symposium on Calcitropic Hormones: methods and clinical applications will be held in Gardone Riviera (Garda Lake, Italy) on 6-9 May 1981.

For information please contact the Organising Secretariat: Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini, Via Monte Napoleone, 23-20121 Milan, Italy.

First International Symposium on Minimal Invasive Cancer

This symposium, organised by the University Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Graz, will be held in Graz, Kongresshaus, 1-4 July 1981.

For information please write to the Secretariat, Interconvention, PO Box 105, A-1014 Vienna, Austria.

International Society of Haematology

The 6th meeting of the European-African Division will take place in Athens, Greece on 30 August-4 September 1981.

Please address enquiries to the Secretariat, PO Box 52, Athens 624-A, Greece.

The 19th Congress of the International Society of Haematology (jointly with the 17th Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion) will take place in Budapest, Hungary, on 1-7 August 1982.

For information please write to ISH/ISBT Congress, Motesz Congress Bureau, Budapest, POB 32, H-1361, Hungary.

Correction

Processing haematological data on dedicated computer. Nelson *et al.* October issue, pages 926-935.

A printing transposition has occurred in this paper on pages 933 and 934.

In the section Blood Group and Antibody Data, the text on page 933 from line 15, "The need to obtain information . . . to page 934, lines 10 and 11 . . . stored under the patient's name on a separate file" is in the incorrect position and should follow the text under the heading Blood and Blood Product Data after the paragraph ending on page 934, line 43, "do not result in any reprogramming".