

Sarcoidosis. Ed W Jones Williams and BH Davies. (Pp xxxii + 774; illustrated; £35, \$95.) Alpha Omega Publishing Ltd. 1980.

The proceedings of the eighth international symposium on sarcoidosis and other granulomatous disease held at Cardiff in 1978 are reported in this book. It assembles 114 concise reports on all aspects of sarcoidosis under the following headings: pathology, ultrastructure, macrophages, cell kinetics, experimental models, immunology, HLA systems, diagnostic tests, angiotensin converting enzyme, physiology, radiology, bronchopulmonary lavage, immunological inhibitors, epidemiology, clinical aspects, the Kveim test, hypersensitivity granulomatous diseases, and other granulomatous diseases. Thus all disciplines are covered in this study of a multi-system disease and most readers will find something of interest. For those with a special interest in sarcoidosis this book is a 'must'. Unfortunately the editing has taken two years but the final result is an attractive and invaluable publication.

B CORRIN

Mononuclear Phagocytes. Functional Aspects. Parts I and II. Ed Ralph van Furth. (Pp 1938; illustrated; 360 guilders.) Martinus Nijhoff. 1980.

The reticuloendothelial system died in Leiden in 1969 at the hands of Ralph van Furth and from its ashes sprang the mononuclear phagocyte system. This massive two volume proceedings from the 3rd Leiden conference held in 1978 is a tribute to the vigour of this new phoenix and clearly documents its explosive growth. Nearly two thousand pages of erudite and informative papers and reviews describing the functional properties of macrophages are enclosed by very attractive covers decorated with 'The Last Judgment' by Lucas Van Leiden. This apocalyptic vision of demons hurling sinners into hell is the editor's allegorical joke concerning the role of macrophages as effector cells.

The contents are entirely comprehensive covering a bewildering range of functional attributes of these remarkable cells. The chapters are well organised. Indeed the whole splendid exercise is a tribute to its editor's vision (just short of apocalyptic) and expertise.

Until superseded by the proceedings of the fourth Leiden conference (and what a prospect that is!) these two volumes will undoubtedly become the definitive text for anyone interested in mononuclear phagocytes. The reticuloendothelial system is dead. Long live the mononuclear phagocyte system!

GA CURRIE

Recent Advances in Clinical Immunology. No 2. Ed RA Thompson. (Pp 367; illustrated; £16.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

The second volume in this series comes close to satisfying most readers' conception of a book entitled 'Clinical Immunology'. Far more than the first volume this book includes information helpful for doctors involved in the management of patients with immunological disorders. Admittedly the first five chapters are concerned with elucidating the nature of immune mechanisms in disease rather than with more clinical matters. These give authoritative accounts of the immunology of the placenta, suppressor T cells, eosinophils, complement, and anti-immunoglobulins. The last eight chapters deal more truly with applied immunology and many of the topics are described for the first time, quite an achievement for a book on immunological medicine. These include immunological aspects of periodontal disease, antibodies to insulin, and assays of macrophage function. Even the chapter on allergic drug reactions is far more sophisticated than most similar texts dealing with this problem. It is also refreshing to see that plasma exchange and levamisole, both matters of practical clinical importance, are dealt with in a mature, critical fashion. In contrast with so many books on immunological medicine this volume offers the hope that the series will truly provide a service for doctors who deal with allergic diseases.

AM DENMAN

'Systemic Pathology'. 2nd ed. Vol 6 by 38 authors. Ed WStC Symmers. (Pp 472; illustrated; £42.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

The second edition of 'Systemic Pathology' is now complete. Volume 6 deals with the skin (300 pages), the eyes (74 pages) and a final section of 32 pages on the ears. For those who have access to Friedmann's larger work on *The Pathology*

of the Ears, and who see little ocular pathology, the section on diseases of the skin will be the most used. This is a successful section which contains information not readily available in other standard works. It is long enough to go into considerable detail about interesting rarities though the concept of fibrous histiocytoma and its variants is not described in detail. The index refers to some 200 eponymous diseases and helps to clear a way through this jungle.

The Editor asks for more constructive criticism in his preface to this final volume. Descriptive histopathology is very much a combination of words and pictures and there are still too many photomicrographs that are separated from their text. These should be on the same page as the text, or on the facing page. Photographs of one disease within the text of another are confusing. A shorter production time would permit the inclusion of more recent references. More tabulated and classified information would help to reduce the increasing length of the text and would be useful in many subjects such as the blistering diseases of the skin; the epidemiology of diseases, and the prognosis of tumours can also be clearly expressed as tables or graphs. There are six separate indices and a multisystem disease such as sarcoidosis has 120 index entries spread throughout all six of them; the reward for buying six volumes should be a cumulative index. Finally, in order to come to terms with the problems of increasing size and cost, can the third edition be less than 5,000 pages or cost much less than a £1,000? It must be asked whether it is desirable to continue to have sections by authors who have already written similar texts which are on our shelves. The last words must be those of congratulations to the authors and the editor. This is an overall excellent work which we can all feel proud to own and use.

RAB DRURY

Progress in Clinical Immunology. Vol 4. Ed RS Schwarz. (Pp 179; illustrated; \$23.50.) Grune and Stratton, Inc. 1980.

Given the number of new books on immunological topics it is reasonable to judge these by looking fairly stringently at the claims of the authors or editors. Does this book describe improvements in the science or application of immunology which are likely to help in the management of immune disorders in clinical practice? The first chapter nicely catalogues the

clinical and laboratory features of drug-induced systemic lupus erythematosus but tells us nothing new about its pathogenesis or management. The chapters on lymphocyte responses in vitro and circulating immune complexes are profusely documented but insufficiently didactic to be of immediate practical value. There are splendid chapters on auto-antibodies to insulin receptors, the control of IgE synthesis, and lymphocytotoxic antibodies. However these contributions deal with immunopathological mechanisms rather than clinical problems. This book therefore can be classed as a first-rate selection of review articles on immunological topics but its contents are primarily of academic interest and are not directly applicable to clinical management.

AM DENMAN

Biochemical Tests for Identification of Medical Bacteria. 2nd ed. Jean F MacFaddin. (Pp 527; 40 colour figures; £27.75.) Williams & Wilkins. 1980.

All too often routine tests for bacterial identification are taken for granted by those who perform them so a text that sets out in considerable detail the biochemical backgrounds and methodology for 34 commonly used tests serves as a valuable reminder of their underlying complexity. This new edition of MacFaddin's book is almost twice as long as the original. Details of five additional tests are included, the sections on bacterial identification data and commercial multitest systems have been extended, and more appendices have been added.

Unfortunately the expansion of the book's length has not been accompanied by any improvement in the writing. Occasionally the abuses of syntax border on misinformation. For example, 'Optochin has specific sensitivity for *S. pneumoniae*' implies that the chemical is inhibited by the bacterium! Moreover, the book perpetuates old-fashioned names (e.g. 'dextrose' and 'levulose') and units (e.g. ' μ ' instead of ' μm '). Although the author states correctly that the name of the CAMP test (synergistic haemolysis by bacterial species) is an acronym based on the surnames of its originators, it is referred to throughout as the cAMP test, wrongly implying that cyclic adenosine monophosphate is involved.

For a ring-bound, paper-covered volume the price of the new edition appears to be excessive.

FC ODDS

Biology of Ovarian Neoplasia. UICC Technical Report Series. Vol 50. Ed ED Murphy and WG Beamer. (Pp 132; illustrated; Sw fr 16.) UICC. 1980.

The report reviews current feelings on the aetiology, pathogenesis, and pathophysiology of human ovarian cancer with contributions from 10 international authorities. It is stressed that histological classification should adhere to that laid down by the WHO and advises that more emphasis is laid on demographic studies, risk factors, associated infertility, and oral contraception. More detailed knowledge on ovarian embryology and the exploitation of available animal models are encouraged. Morphological study, it is said, would be enhanced by fuller evaluation of pituitary function in patients with ovarian neoplasms and the clarification of the value of tumour markers, hormone receptors, and immunological aspects of ovarian tumour-associated antigens. The final section suggests avenues of approach for future investigation. The report is accompanied by a moderate number of suitable references and is useful and important both to the research worker and to those with a clinico-pathological interest in ovarian neoplasia.

JOW BEILBY

Recent Advances in Clinical Virology. No 2. Ed AP Waterson. (Pp 190; illustrated; £16.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

Professor AP Waterson has edited a worthy successor to volume 1. The hepatitis story continues in four chapters on hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and its passive immunoprophylaxis; there is a review of 'Non-A, non-B hepatitis' of which there are probably at least two parenterally transmissible and one faecal-orally transmissible agent. Herpesviruses provide three chapters—a concise review of current chemotherapeutic agents, a detailed discussion of eye infections, and a critical updating of herpes encephalitis and the problems of diagnosis and evaluation of chemotherapy. Both herpes and hepatitis infections come into the chapter on sexually transmitted virus disease. The papovavirus theme is continued in chapters where modern molecular biological techniques are bringing order into classification of human papillomaviruses and in a usefully detailed updating of polyomaviruses, their epidemiology and clinical implications. The complex relation between multiple sclerosis and antibody to

measles envelope antigens is critically reviewed by KB Fraser, and the final chapter provides a common sense discussion of safety matters by TH Flewett. This is a useful book and a good buy.

NR GRISHAM

Carleton's Histological Technique. 5th ed. RAB Drury and EA Wallington. (Pp 520; illustrated; £24.) Oxford Medical Publications. 1980.

'Carleton' has been the histologists' book of choice since 1926 and the 1980 fifth edition will ensure that it maintains this position. The core of the book remains centred on tissue fixation, processing, microtomy, and staining and most of the techniques described are well tried and known to be reliable. Most standard practical procedures are set out in detail and the technologist is told precisely what to do and what to expect. The scientific basis of these procedures is dealt with briefly but sufficiently, whilst well selected references are provided for those who wish to delve more deeply. Excellent new sections are included dealing with morphometric, diagnostic cytology, and immunocytochemistry. Ultramicrotomy is not included but there is a useful brief outline of transmission and scanning electron microscopy. The use of plastic embedded tissue for light microscopy will no doubt be developed more fully in the next edition. This edition is an excellent text, essential reading for all histopathologists and their technical staff.

B CORRIE

The Laboratory Diagnosis of Toxoplasmosis. Public Health Laboratory Service Monograph No 13. (Pp 20; illustrated; paperback £2.) HMSO. 1980.

This is the 13th publication in the PHLS Monograph Series and, like its predecessors, gives a clear and authoritative guide to the laboratory aspects of the subject. There are short descriptions of the epidemiology and clinical forms of toxoplasmosis, while the main part of the monograph gives the procedures for the several serological tests for antibody detection. There are sections on the significance of the tests, on veterinary aspects, and on treatment. Each aspect is dealt with succinctly and informatively and the handbook thoroughly deserves a place on the microbiology bookshelf.

PJ SANDERS