

- and in experimental infections. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1977;3:87-94.
- <sup>33</sup> Arioli V, Berti M. Interaction between rifampicin and trimethoprim. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1979;5:113-4.
- <sup>34</sup> Farrell W, Wils M, Drassar FA. The detection of trimethoprim and rifampicin in combination against Gram-negative rods resistant to gentamicin. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1977;3:459-62.
- <sup>35</sup> Harvey RJ. Antagonistic interaction of rifampicin and trimethoprim. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1978;4:315-27.
- <sup>36</sup> Kerry DW, Hamilton-Miller JMT, Brumfitt W. Trimethoprim and rifampicin: in vitro activities separately and in combination. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1975;1:417-27.
- <sup>37</sup> Greenwood D, Andrew J. Rifampicin plus nalidixic acid: a rational combination for the treatment of urinary infection. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1978;4:533-8.
- <sup>38</sup> Traub WH, Kleber I. In vitro additive aspect of polymyxin B and rifampicin against *Serratia marcescens*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1975;7:874-6.
- <sup>39</sup> Barza M, Brown RB, Shanks C, Gamble C, Weinstein L. Relation between lipophilicity and pharmacological behavior of minocycline, doxycycline, tetracycline and oxytetracycline in dogs. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1975;8:713-20.

Requests for reprints to: Professor E Yourassowsky, Hôpital Universitaire Brugmann, Service de Biologie Clinique, Avenue JJ Crocq 1, 1020 Bruxelles, Belgique.

## Reports and Bulletins prepared by the Association of Clinical Biochemists

The following reports and bulletins are published by the Association of Clinical Biochemists. They may be obtained from The Publishing Department, British Medical Journal (ACB Technical Bulletins), BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Overseas readers should remit by British Postal or Money Order.

### SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS (price £1.00/\$2.00 each)

- 1** The assessment of thyroid function March 1971  
FV FLYNN and JR HOBBS
- 2** Renal function tests suitable for clinical practice  
January 1972 FL MITCHELL, N VELLAL, and RWE WATTS
- 3** Biochemical tests for the assessment of fetoplacental  
function May 1975 CE WILDE and RE OAKLEY
- 4** Test of exocrine pancreatic function March 1977  
AH GOWENLOCK
- 5** Assay of cholinesterase in clinical chemistry March  
1979 ELSIE SILK, J KING, and MARY WHITTAKER

### TECHNICAL BULLETINS (price £1.00/\$2.00 each)

- 22** Bilirubin standards and the determination of bilirubin  
by manual and technicon AutoAnalyzer methods  
January 1971 BARBARA BILLING, RUTH HASLAM, and N  
WALD
- 23** Interchangeable cells for spectrophotometers and  
fluorimeters September 1971 SS BROWN and AH  
GOWENLOCK
- 24** Simple tests to detect poisons March 1972 BW  
MEADE *et al.*
- 25** Blood gas analysers May 1972 K DIXON
- 26** Kits for enzyme activity determination September  
1972 SB ROSALKI and D TARLOW
- 27** Assessment of pumps suitable for incorporation into  
existing continuous flow analytical systems November  
1972 A FLECK *et al.*
- 28** Routine clinical measurements of transferrin in  
human serum September 1973 K DIXON

- 29** Control materials for clinical biochemistry (5th  
edition) September 1973 JF STEVENS
- 30** Notes on the quality of performance of serum  
cholesterol assays September 1973 SS BROWN
- 31** Determination of uric acid in blood and in urine  
July 1974 RWE WATTS
- 32** A survey of amino acid analysers readily available in  
the United Kingdom September 1974 JE CARLYLE  
and P PURKISS
- 33** Definitions of some words and terms used in auto-  
mated analysis November 1974 A FLECK, R ROBINSON,  
SS BROWN, and JR HOBBS
- 34** Measurement of albumin in the sera of patients  
January 1975 LINDA SLATER, PM CARTER, and JR HOBBS
- 35** Investigation of the validity of temperature correction  
factors for serum aspartate and alanine transaminases  
March 1975 SB ROSALKI *et al.*
- 36** Factors influencing the assay of creatinine November  
1975 JGH COOK
- 37** A survey of enzyme reaction rate analysers readily  
available in the United Kingdom July 1977 RA  
SAUNDERS and RF BURNS
- 38** Transport of specimens for clinical chemistry analy-  
sis November 1977 P WILDING, JF ZILVA, and  
CE WILDE
- 39** A scheme for the evaluation of diagnostic kits May  
1978 PH LLOYD
- 40** A practical guide to gamma-counting in radio-  
immunoassay January 1980 CE WILDE and D OTTEWELL
- 41** The use of biochemical tests in the diagnosis of  
disorders of calcium metabolism July 1980 ANGELA  
FAIRNEY

**Anaerobic Bacteriology Manual.** 3rd ed. VL Sutter, DM Citron, SM Finegold, and KS Bricknell. (Pp 131; illustrated; £5.50.) YB Medical Publishers Ltd. 1980.

This is the third edition of one of a number of similar anaerobe manuals published in the USA. It is attractively presented and easy to read, and presents the methods and tests employed at the Wadsworth Medical Centre, California. Although there is much helpful information in this little book, there are a number of surprises for the UK reader. Thus, on the one hand one is envious of the ease with which anaerobic cocci can be identified; on the other it is surprising to find *Clostridium novyi* type A tabulated among the Nagler-negative clostridia, and the gelatinase activity of *Ci bifementans* and *Ci sordellii* not recorded. Very few British clinical microbiologists will find themselves in agreement with the list of specimens whose anaerobic culture is positively not recommended, nor will they be greatly impressed by the methods recommended for the detection of proteolysis (culture in chopped meat medium or whole milk), of gelatinase activity (exposure of Pan-X (Kodak) film to bacterial suspensions), or of motility determination (hanging drop). Not surprisingly in a text published in the USA the nitroimidazoles are not mentioned. The text is usefully supported by 136 end-references, although the literature cited is almost exclusively of American origin.

AT WILLIS

**Electron Microscopy in Human Medicine.** Ed JV Johannessen. Vol 6. (Pp 454; illustrated; £31.05.) Vol 9. (Pp 456; illustrated; £30.85.) McGraw-Hill Book Company (UK) Limited. 1980.

Here are two more volumes of this truly 'magnum opus' in 11 parts. Volume 6 covers the nervous system, the eye, inner ear, and the respiratory tract, and Volume 9 includes the urogenital system (kidney, lower urinary tract, male genitalia, female genital tract, placenta), and breast.

With 42 contributors the text is somewhat variable although the standard is generally high. There are plentiful illustrations of both scanning and transmission electron micrographs. There are enough references for each chapter to enable one to pursue any particular subject in greater depth. Many of the chapters give a brief review of normal

structure as well as a good variety of pathology, and as the title suggests the discussions are not confined to 'diagnostic' EM features but provide a general extension of histopathology to the ultra-structural level.

JULIE CROW

**Preleukemia.** Ed F Schmalzl and KP Hellriegel. (Pp 194; 64 figs; 59 tables; DM 48; US \$26.90.) Springer-Verlag, Berlin. 1979.

This covers the proceedings of a two-day workshop on this topic, held in Innsbruck in 1979. It is an excellent updated account of the clinico-haematological spectrum of disorders encompassed by the term 'preleukaemia'.

In general the disease descriptions and the differential diagnosis from conditions regarded either as not preleukaemic or as true myeloid leukaemia are well defined. The book describes the morphological and cytochemical aspects in detail and, in addition, has many papers dealing with growing research areas, chiefly bone marrow cultures.

The papers are followed by edited discussions, which I found useful, and there is also a good round table discussion of the tests which are of value for differential diagnosis and for predicting leukaemic evolution. Three investigations appear to be of value for the latter: assessment of the percentage of blast cells in the bone marrow, the pattern of growth in semi-solid cultures, and the presence of chromosome abnormalities. Additional features are the presence of circulating blasts, the degree of pancytopenia, and the involvement of more than one bone marrow cell line. Some consensus appears to exist regarding the cases with a low risk of developing acute leukaemia, eg aplastic and sideroblastic anaemias, and those with a high risk, eg those with readily demonstrable blast cells. The problems of treatment were discussed, although no new data were presented. A key question remains: are normal stem cells still present when preleukaemia develops, and if so, can they repopulate the bone marrow once the leukaemic clone is ablated? Observations of lower response rates in the so-called secondary acute leukaemias, often preceded by a preleukaemic phase, suggest that the bone marrow is radically affected in some patients.

This book should be a good addition to any haematological library. It will remain useful for some years unless rapid developments in the field require the organisation of a new workshop.

D CATOVSKY

## Notices

### Light Microscopy—Conference and Exhibition 1981

This conference, organised by the Royal Microscopical Society, will be held at Imperial College, London on 7-9 July 1981. For information, please write to the Administrator, 37-8 St Clements, Oxford OX4 1AJ.

### 6th International Symposium on Atherosclerosis

This symposium, organised by the International Atherosclerosis Society, will be held at the International Congress Center, Berlin, West-Berlin on 14-18 June 1982. Topics include: clinical aspects, epidemiology, prevention and treatment, childhood atherosclerosis, and basic research. For information, please write to the General Secretary: Prof Dr G Schlierf, c/o Medizinische Univ. Klinik, 58 Bergheimer-Strasse, D-6900 Heidelberg, West Germany.