

cells before and after incubation with ethanol (concentration 2 and 20%; incubation time 1 hour; temperature 37°C). We found an average reduction in RCD of 6 and 14% respectively.

These preliminary results suggest that changes in RCD might be induced by ethanol. Changes of red cell morphology are known to alter RCD.<sup>3</sup> In this context the observation that ethanol causes vacuolation of white and red cells might be important. Although we did not observe gross changes in erythrocyte morphology

by routine light microscopy in our experiments, such changes might still be present to a degree too minor to be detected by this method. Thus the findings reported in the above mentioned paper could give a clue as to how to explain our results. Further investigations are needed to study the problem.

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## Book reviews

**Practical Methods in Clinical Immunology Series.** Vol 2. Immunological Investigation of Tropical Parasitic Diseases. V Houba. (Pp 170; £16.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

It is an opportune moment for this book as there is a resurgence of immunological interest in tropical diseases. It contains ten chapters, each of which deals with one or a collection of closely related tropical parasitic diseases. In each chapter there is a brief outline of the clinical and parasitological aspects of the disease, followed by a more extensive discussion of the immune response. Each concludes with a detailed appraisal of all the serological techniques which have been applied to that particular disease. The practical details of recommended techniques at the end of each chapter and the appendix are the most useful parts of the book. These are given in sufficient detail for the reader to be able to set them up in his own laboratory.

This book is a 'must' for any parasitological laboratory dealing with diagnosis or immunological research. A VOLLER

**Endocrine Disorders** A Pathophysiologic Approach. 2nd ed. Will G Ryan. (Pp xv + 148; illustrated; £13.) Year Book Medical Publishers. 1980.

This book is one of a series in Internal Medicine and is intended to be an introductory text for students. This second edition has not been extensively rewritten, a material update and the correction of minor errors being the main changes. It is concise and brief covering the main aspects of endocrinology and will be widely read by the student interested in this topic.

The stated normal values for various hormonal concentrations are sometimes different from those reported in Great Britain and values are not quoted. These are, however, minor criticisms. The book is aimed at the student and not at the established clinician or laboratory worker. It will be of great value to those struggling to gain some knowledge of the rapidly expanding field of endocrinology.

GW PENNINGTON

**Alien Histocompatibility Antigens in Cancer.** Eds MM Bortin and RL Truitt. (Pp 221; illustrated; \$29.50.) Grune & Stratton. 1980.

This is the hardcover edition of the March 1980 issue of *Transplantation Proceedings* (Vol XII, No 1), which includes the material presented at a conference held in Racine, Wisc. in May 1979, together with discussion. The presence of alien, ie, 'not self' for the host, histocompatibility antigens on tumour cell has recently been studied in some detail, mainly for the H-2 system of mice, where the presence of new H-2 specificities and/or loss of existing antigens has been demonstrated. This phenomenon has been suggested to arise from one of several mechanisms, including the presence of endogenous virus (a notorious hazard in mouse tumour serology, well illustrated here by data from Klein) alteration of H-2 by endogenous virus or some other virus induced mechanism, or more intriguingly, from depression of existing H-2 genes, normally suppressed by genetic regulatory factors. The papers in this volume present detailed evidence for the existence of these novel antigens, and the consensus is that

these are not tumour specific transplantation antigens (TSTA), although in some chemically induced tumours, they do behave as tumour antigens (TA). The final section deals with the potential exploitation of these antigens as tools for diagnosis and even to manipulate immunotherapy. The field is new, potentially exciting, and although these papers are highly technical, they deserve attention. For immunologists with an interest in tumours and/or transplants (which must mean more than a select few) this book is a must. The second symposium due to be held in late 1980 may offer even better pickings.

HEATHER M DICK

**Renal Adenocarcinoma.** UICC Technical Report Series Vol 49—A series of Workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer. Report No 10. Ed G Sufrin and JA Beckley. (Pp 215; Sw fr 17.) UICC, Geneva. 1980.

The workshop set out to assess current knowledge of, and to identify promising areas for future research into, renal adenocarcinoma. Studies on model systems, biochemistry, immunology, cell kinetics, epidemiology, histopathology, radiology, chemotherapy, and biochemical and clinical markers are reviewed in extenso and critically analysed, and the result is a work of reference likely to be of great practical value to workers in many disciplines. The part of the review devoted to future prospects is much less well analysed giving the impression that virtually any and every line of research would be worthwhile. Despite this the volume can be recommended as a standard guide to the literature.

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