

Book reviews

However, this is a fascinating book about a fascinating subject. Sadly it may have limited appeal as many laboratory workers have little interest in the achievements of their predecessors.

PAMELA G RICHES

Cytapheresis and Plasma Exchange. Clinical Indications. Ed WR Vogler. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research Vol 88. (Pp 318; illustrated; £28.00/DM95.00.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

Here we have an admitted re-vamping of a Symposium held in 1979 on the subject of what the Editor terms "apheresis" but is referred to as "cell separation and plasma exchange" on this side of the Atlantic. The book's origins are betrayed by its format—a selection of essays by several contributors in widely varying style and content. The most useful factors are those concerning the collection and re-infusion of circulating cells such as granulocytes and platelets. Here the information is factual, reasonably up to date, and uncontroversial. This part of the book would serve as a verbose but practical guide for technicians in the blood transfusion service.

The rest of the book purports to be concerned with clinical indications. Here the book is much less satisfactory because what clinicians—and their financial backers—want to know is whether or not these procedures really help patients with various diseases. Unfortunately the book does not take us beyond the earlier, heady days of these techniques and there is no longer any place for a bald list of "clinical applications" of the kind listed on page 253. Again, the chapter on plasma exchange in myasthenia gravis cites only two papers as recent as 1980 and does not attempt to come to terms with the issue of controlled comparative trials. Most clinicians want to know about proven indications for plasma exchange and they will not be helped by this book. I cannot resist closing this account with the remedy given on page 106 for citrate reactions, namely "avoid using excessive citrate in the first place."

AM DENMAN

Some new titles

Brochure of TNM Checklists. UICC Technical Report Series vol 51. Enlarged and revised edition 1982. Developed by AH Sellers. Hans Huber Publishers. 1982.

Journal of Clinical Apheresis. Vol 1 No 1 1982. A quarterly journal. \$70.00 United States; \$81.00 Europe, the Middle East, Africa; \$78.00 other countries. Alan R Liss Inc.

Essentials of Medical Ultrasound. Eds MH Repacholi and Deidre A Benwell. (Pp 330; illustrated; \$54.50.) The Humana Press Inc. 1982.

General Pathology. Ivan Damjanov. (Pp 383; illustrated; \$23.50.) Medical Examination Publishing Co. Inc. 1982.

Corrections

In the paper by Evans and Taylor-Robinson¹ in the October issue of 1982, under Material and methods: Antigen preparation, on page 1123, first column, line 7, the sentence should read: "The resulting pellet was resuspended in PBSA and layered on a 20% Urografin (Schering) gradient and centrifuged at 25 000 g for 2 h."

In the second column on page 1123, the formula for establishing titres should read:

$$\text{Intercept } Z = 2 + \frac{1}{B} (E - \sqrt{E^2 - 2B(Y_2 - D)})$$

where $D = \frac{(S_1 + S_2 + S_3)}{3}$

D1 is the denominator of first dilution.

Reference

¹ Evans RT, Taylor-Robinson D. Development and evaluation of an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), using chlamydial group antigen, to detect antibodies to *Chlamydia trachomatis*. *J Clin Pathol* 1982;35:1122-8.

In the paper by Alfa and Lee¹ in the May issue of 1982, under Material and methods: Transport methods tested, on

page 556, second column, line 8, the concentration of resazurin should read: 0.22 mg/ml.

Reference

¹ Alfa M, Lee A. A transport method for swab specimens submitted for aerobic and anaerobic bacteriology. *J Clin Pathol* 1982;35:555-60.

Notices

8th Hormones and Cell Regulation Conference

This conference will be held in Ste-Odile, Nr Strasbourg, France, 26-30 September 1983. For further information, please write to: Dr JE Dumont, IRIBHN, Faculty of Medicine, University of Brussels, Campus C Erasme, 808 route de Lennik, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium.

Research Progress in Dementia

This meeting will be held at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, University of London, 6-8 July 1983. For further information, please contact: Dr F Clifford Rose, Department of Neurology, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8RF.

Gastrointestinal Pathology Club

The Gastrointestinal Pathology Club was founded in 1979 to unite persons with an interest in the morphological study of the GI tract and liver, to disseminate and increase knowledge about the pathology of these organs, and to encourage the development of gastrointestinal pathology as a subspecialty. The club currently meets once a year immediately preceding the annual meeting of the International Academy of Pathology (USA-Canadian Division) and presents a scientific program. For further information and an application form, please contact: Dr Gerald Abrams, Secretary-Treasurer, GI Pathology Club, Department of Pathology, University of Michigan Medical Center, 1335 East Catherine Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109; USA.