

able. It would be too much to expect every contribution to attain a uniformly high standard and, regrettably, a few of them seem to have taken a somewhat narrow view of the subject. In consequence other relevant work may be overlooked. What is omitted, moreover, is a fearless cost-benefit analysis such as would be demanded by funding bodies for a service of this kind.

These reservations apart, few hospital clinical chemistry or chemical laboratory departments could afford to disregard this book.

R GOULDING

Electron Microscopy in Human Medicine. Vol 3. Ed Jan Vincents Johannessen. (Pp 397; illustrated; £49.95.) McGraw-Hill Book Company (UK) Limited. 1981.

The ultrastructure of micro-organisms of clinical relevance is reviewed in this book. The first section on viruses is a simple guide to specimen preparation and to virus recognition and classification, ideal for the non-virologist who may occasionally be invited to join in an ultrastructural virus hunt. The remainder of the book is aimed more at the microbiological specialist. The largest section is on bacteria. Its encyclopaedic coverage is occasionally marred by minor errors in the detail of the text, but the illustrations are excellent and the chapter will be a valuable reference source. Sections on protozoa and fungi conclude the text. A bizarre error in Fig 6.11 identifies what is undoubtedly a small unmyelinated nerve as an activated lymphocyte.

The book might have benefited from a greater emphasis on host-parasite interactions. Perhaps a broad concluding chapter giving a general overview of this subject would have placed these individual specialised contributions in a more balanced biomedical perspective. Nevertheless, as it stands, this book will be of value to electron microscopists and to specialist microbiologists who will prize it for its broad coverage and its generally excellent illustrations.

PG TONER
DJ PLATT

Current Topics in Pathology. Vol 70. Cervical Cancer. Ed G Dallenbach-Hellweg. (Pp 259; illustrated; DM 144, US\$61.30.) Springer-Verlag. 1981.

The object of this book is not to provide a complete account of cervical cancer

but to highlight recent ideas on the subject, considering not only pathology but also clinical aspects and treatment.

Outstanding amongst the nine chapters is a comprehensive, lucid and witty account of the aetiology and epidemiology of cervical cancer by Rodkin. I particularly enjoyed his scathing comments on "the oncogenic power of the prepuce", his noting that "smoking is not sexually transmissible", and his identification of "the nuptial bed as the variable with direct biology relevance, particularly if visited for the first time at an early age."

Holzner provides a useful summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of cervical biopsy whilst there is a good, but occasionally slightly opaque, discussion of pathogenesis by Koss. The overall editor, Gisela Dallenbach-Hellweg, contributes an interesting, though controversial, chapter on the effects of exogenous hormones on cervical cancer and its precursors and is to be congratulated on having assembled a stimulating and worthwhile volume.

H FOX

Control of Hospital Infection. A Practical Handbook. 2nd ed. Eds EJM Lowbury, GAJ Ayliffe, AM Geddes, JD Williams. (Pp 325; £16.50.) Chapman & Hall Ltd. 1981.

The second edition of this valuable book has been extensively revised and brought up to date to include new problems and practices. The standard of coverage is high although inevitably variations in length and detail of different sections reflect the interest of the contributors as well as the importance of the subject. This edition is still described as a "handbook" although increased in size and weight well beyond that point. The practices advocated are sound and accepted. The most valuable chapters are those dealing with Special Wards and Departments, giving clear advice in considerable detail, and some of the appendices are particularly helpful distillations of knowledge and practice. This book should be consulted by all who have responsibility for infection in hospital.

GL GIBSON

Leukocyte Function. Ed Martin J Cline. (Pp 149; illustrated; £15.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

Leukocyte Function contains chapters on neutrophil function, monocyte-macro-

phage function, chemotaxis, leukocyte antigens, granulocyte differentiation and culture, and histochemical reactions of leukocytes. The title is deceptive as it suggests information on the function of leukocytes other than neutrophils and monocytes whereas it deals almost exclusively with these cells. It does this exceptionally well with precise experimental details of laboratory techniques and will be invaluable to any centre setting up these studies. Although most informative, the chapters on leukocyte antigens and HLA typing is slightly inappropriate as it is only likely to be applied in specialised centralised laboratories. There is a rather pedestrian chapter on histochemical reactions of leukocytes, standard methods of which are in general use in most haematology laboratories. In essence, however, this slim volume is an excellent laboratory manual providing a comprehensive guide to techniques used in the study of phagocytic cells and in bone marrow culture.

AW SEGAL

Endoscopy and Biopsy in Gastroenterology. Technique and Indications. Eds. Fruhmorgen, M Classen. (Pp 198; 128 figs; 24 tables; soft cover DM 28, US\$15.40.) Springer Verlag. 1980.

This English translation of a book by German gastroenterologists provides a well regimented account of biopsy techniques. It is in two parts, a general and a special section. The latter chapters all conform to a standard pattern for easy reference. Each technique is dealt with under set titles—instruments, patient preparation, postoperative care, technique, indications, contraindications, and complications. In the first general section are found chapters on organizing an endoscopy unit, documentation, and the pathologist. The correct emphasis is placed on providing complete clinical data and large biopsies.

However, I imagine most pathologists will seldom need to refer to this book though it does provide a useful background knowledge on endoscopic procedures. In these times of austerity however it is cheaper to walk over to the endoscopy department and look around for oneself.

AB PRICE

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