	Mexican pararotavirus	Chilean pararotavirus	Rotavirus
Acute serum (Mexican)	-	-	-
Convalescent serum (Mexican)	+	-	-
Human immune globulin (UK)	NT	+	+

NT = not tested.

+ = positive; - = negative.

These results suggest that the Mexican and Chilean pararotaviruses are antigenically distinct. Furthermore, antibody to the Chilean pararotavirus is present in human immune globulin prepared from the UK population, which suggests that this serotype has circulated in the UK.

Further studies will establish whether antigenic diversity is as common among the human pararotaviruses as among rotaviruses. Recently, antigen diversity has been reported among animal rotavirus lacking the typical group antigen.²

This work was carried out during a free session of a WHO workshop on electron microscopy and immune electron microscopy held in Mexico City.

FERNANDO PUERTO MANZANO

*Instituto de Investigaciones Biomedicas,
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico,
Mexico, DF 04510*

LUIS F AVENDANO

*Departamento de Microbiologia y Parasitologia,
Universidad de Chile, Facultad
Medicina Norte, Santiago, Chile*

JOSE ESPARZA

Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas, Caracas, Venezuela

E OWEN CAUL

*Public Health Laboratory, Kingsdown,
Bristol, England*

Book reviews

Nephro-urology. Integrated Clinical Science. Ed AW Asscher and DB Moffat. (Pp 168; softback £7.50.) William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1983.

The authors' highly commendable objective in this book is "to present a logical and easily understood account of nephro-urology". In parts they have succeeded admirably; elsewhere the standard falls. To write a book such as this demands complete familiarity with basic science and clinical practice. In several chapters one has the feeling of "arm-chair clinical practice": for example, autonomic denervation as a common cause of postural hypotension or the massive list of investigations required to be applied to stone formers. Some observations are heretical—for example, dismissal of the jugular venous pressure as a measure of fluid balance—or just plain wrong—for example, filtration of PAH by the tubules. In brief the book is a good start in the right direction but it needs more critical and informed editing.

WR CATTELL

final two chapters are specialist contributions on the interaction of platelets with biomaterials, as used in prostheses, and on the action of chemical agents and drugs on platelet metabolism. The latter includes changes in the physicochemical properties of the platelet membrane such as phospholipid structure, microviscosity, and receptor sites. The specialist will also appreciate the extensive bibliography. Generalist readers should be selective.

J STUART

Precancer. Cancer Surveys. Advances and Prospects in Clinical, Epidemiological and Laboratory Oncology. Vol 2, no 3. Guest Ed JJ DeCosse. Annual subscription £45 for four copies. Single copies £14. Oxford University Press.

The early recognition of those cellular events which invariably progress to frank malignancy ("precancer") are of utmost importance to the pathologist and cell biologist alike. Unfortunately, the histological and cytological criteria accurately identifying those events are presently incompletely defined – and often ambiguous.

This small volume contains contributions from several recognised authorities and critically evaluates precancer of the more common sites in an attempt to highlight those features common to this process. The articles are well written and together provide a useful, informed, and easily read review of present concepts of precancer. It is good value at the current price.

CS FOSTER

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Blood Platelet Function and Medicinal Chemistry. Ed A Lasslo. (Pp 324; \$49.50.) Elsevier Science Publishing. 1984.

This reference book on platelet function comprises six chapters by twelve contributors from the USA and Canada. Its unusual title (intriguing yet opaque) is mirrored by an unusual mixture of chapter topics. There is a brief introduction on the role of platelets in cardiovascular disease followed by three good review chapters on platelet ultrastructure and the effects of platelet activation, on platelet function (normal and abnormal), and on the pathophysiology of vascular endothelium. These are valuable reviews for both the specialist and generalist. In contrast, the

The Leukemias. Hematology. Vol 1. Butterworths International Medical Reviews. Ed John M Goldman and Harvey D Preisler. (Pp 372; £29.) The Butterworth Group. 1984.

This first volume in a new series of haematological reviews could more accurately be described as a concise textbook. The Anglo-American team of editors and authors has produced a comprehensive book only distinguishable from the conventional text book by the absence of older references, more recent ones being numerous and up to date.

The four basic types of leukaemia are

each allotted two chapters, one concerning basic clinical and laboratory features as well as immunological and cytogenetic data, and one dealing with treatment. The weakness of this comprehensive approach is that discussion on controversial areas, such as modifications of CNS prophylaxis in lymphoblastic leukaemia is necessarily restricted; a pity in a review volume. Moreover, by dealing with bone marrow transplantation in a separate chapter the editors have neglected the opportunity to evaluate this as one form of potential therapy, albeit a very intensive one. The most obvious shortcoming in this respect is seen with respect to acute myeloid leukaemia, where the relative merits of transplantation and chemotherapy are not discussed in either of the chapters on these subjects.

The first chapter by Jarrett and Onions on retroviruses is clear and timely, and their description of the pathogenesis of retrovirus-induced leukaemia makes welcome reading for the non-specialist. It is difficult to find good reviews on the pharmacology of cytotoxic drugs so the chapter by Chabner's team is especially welcome and marred only by inaccurate reference numbering.

The final chapter on supportive care, while otherwise comprehensive, sadly makes no mention of the emotional and psychological problems of patients with leukaemia.

This book certainly represents value for money and will be welcomed by higher examination candidates for whom it will provide a readable, up to date, and well-referenced source of information.

JUDITH M CHESSELLS

Pulmonary Diseases. Clinicopathological Correlations. Current Topics in Pathology 73. Ed KM Müller. (Pp 302; DM 148; US\$58-80.) Springer. 1983.

Clinicopathological correlation is an important but easily neglected field of study for histopathologists, who are all too often confronted by overwhelming masses of surgical histology material requiring immediate diagnosis. A volume that places such correlation as its primary purpose is therefore welcome. This book consists of a series of essays on disparate aspects of lung disease but, alas, suffers from an unevenness in style and content inseparable from multi-author works.

Yet certain sections are of high quality. Thus the account by Dalquen and Oberholzer of correlation between functional and morphological parameters in chronic obstructive lung disease, with 197 references, is probably the most comprehensive review of the subject to date. The United Kingdom is represented by SG Howarth, who has contributed an important, clinical, and full account of pulmonary hypertension in childhood giving welcome emphasis to quantitative aspects of vascular pathology. There is a review of pulmonary blastoma which will prove a good reference source for those who encounter this rare and puzzling tumour. The sections on viral infections, experimental pulmonary fibrosis, and pre-neoplastic lesions of the bronchus provide useful if limited information on these topical subjects. In a book that is part of a "Current Topics in Pathology" series, a chapter on bronchiolo-alveolar lavage would have been welcome. The standard of production is high and there is a good index, but the price and limited content may well inhibit individual purchasers.

MS DUNNILL

Legionella. Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium. Ed C Thornsberry, A Balows, JC Feeley, and W Jakubowski. (Pp 371; \$39.) American Society for Microbiology.

This is a collection of papers and lectures presented at the Symposium held in Atlanta June 1983 (4½ years after the 1st Symposium) and published with commendable speed. There are sections on clinical features and laboratory diagnosis (25 contributions), microbiology (23 contributions), pathology and pathophysiology (9 contributions), immunology—mostly cellular (20 contributions), epidemiology (34 contributions), and ecology and environmental control (36 contributions). Each section commences with one or more short but valuable "state of the art" review lectures and finishes with a summary. Most sections include a round table discussion.

This is a very comprehensive book with the interesting mixture of established and accepted knowledge alongside papers presenting new information across the whole field of legionella studies. There is therefore something for everyone in these pages (although the weakest part of the sym-

posium was on the detailed clinical aspects of legionella infection), and a wealth of literature references for those seeking further information. Some of the more important findings presented have been published elsewhere since the meeting but there is still much which is new.

This book is required reading for those wishing to be up to date in detail with legionellas and the infections they cause, and is useful for those clinical pathologists who may be asked for advice on the many aspects of the subject.

RJ FALLON

Clinical Laboratory Annual. Vol 3. Series ed HA Homburger and JG Batsakis. (Pp 450; £49-90) Prentice/Hall International. 1984.

This volume is designed specifically for the American practitioner of laboratory medicine and as such is difficult to see that it will appeal to consultants or trainees in individual pathological disciplines in the UK. The 13 chapters are split roughly evenly between immunology, haematology and chemical pathology and a single microbiological one on antifungal agents. Two are on computing and laboratory management, there is a good review on human B lymphocytes and their pathology, but the chapter on advances on cytochemistry of blood cells is restricted by the lack of colour illustrations and like many of the other articles it is more of an overall review than a recent update, despite the title. In the same way the chapters on the evaluation of cell-mediated immunity and one called "Platelet Transfusion Therapy" were reviews rather than updates, but the latter in fact contains some excellent information on the detection of platelet antibodies. An interesting article on nickel metabolism is included and reviews on the lysosomal storage diseases, HDL cholesterol, and bile acids are presented. None of the references appear to be later than 1982—a problem difficult to resolve in this kind of publication and their number varies from 1 to 415. At £50-00 a copy it's probably expensive for the one or two reviews that any individual might be interested in and which they well may find in other topic based review publications but libraries might consider stocking the volume.

S ROATH