

ing with conventional methods, gives an excellent account of the application of solid phase radioimmunoassay and ELISA for the detection of *Legionella* antigens. The techniques for the detection of *Candida* and *Aspergillus* antigens in clinical material are well reviewed. The book also includes an adequate review of the well worn methods available for the diagnosis of hepatitis B infection together with a short and not always accurate section on the diagnosis of non-A and non-B hepatitis. Viruses associated with gastro-enteritis are allowed a brief account of ELISA and radioimmunoassay techniques but nowhere in this book does the electron microscope get a mention, either under this heading or in the chapter on microscopy. The last part of the book has short discussions of the applications and shortcomings of the *Limulus* lysate assay and the use of the gas liquid chromatograph; it also includes mention of automated methods for routine urine examination.

This book suffers from multiple authors combined with a lack of overall editing. It will provide a useful introduction and source of references for those entirely unfamiliar with the techniques described, but the established laboratory worker is unlikely to find it particularly rewarding. Although it is claimed in the preface that the book is a critical review, that particular element seems largely to be absent.

DM JONES

**Medical Laboratory Haematology.** R Hall and RG Malia. (Pp 669; £37.50.) Butterworths. 1984.

Medical Laboratory Haematology, as the title implies, is intended for laboratory workers and not for clinicians. The emphasis is therefore on the physiology and pathophysiology of blood disorders rather than on the clinical and therapeutic aspects. Practical details are also given of the commonest investigations.

Somewhat surprisingly blood group serology is excluded but this may reflect the separation of transfusion in the special examinations of the IMLS. I imagine that the book is primarily intended for candidates of the Haematology Special Examination but there is still much that will be of use to medical staff in training. Each chapter is well referenced though there must have been some delay in publication since the articles cited seem to stop fairly abruptly in 1981 with only a handful from 1982.

It is a significant achievement for two authors to have produced such a large and detailed treatise and there can be no doubt that it will be widely used.

JM ENGLAND

**Viral Heart Disease.** Ed H-D Bolte. (Pp 248; DM 78; US \$29.10.) Springer. 1984.

This well produced book is the report of a workshop held in January 1983 at Munich. The 26 papers are grouped into 3 "chapters" entitled histopathology and virology, clinical virology and cellular immunology, and haemodynamics and therapeutic aspects. This grouping is, however, very arbitrary with, for example, papers on diagnostic histopathology appearing in the first and last chapters.

The book has two main themes, acute viral myocarditis and dilated cardiomyopathy. The relationship between these two is explored and the studies presented point to a possible progression from viral myocarditis to dilated cardiomyopathy. This is not thought to be a direct result of viral damage to myocytes but is associated with a depression of suppressor T cell function. The suggestion is made in one paper that this altered T cell activity may be related to certain HLA types. In this latter paper as in most of the others the number of cases studied is small so that the conclusions have to be tentative.

This book is to be recommended for those who are interested in the problems of biopsy diagnosis of myocarditis, in the serological investigation of myocarditic and congestive myopathic patients, and in the clinical distinction between these two conditions.

PGI STOVIN

**Practical Haematology.** 6th ed. Sir John V Dacie and SM Lewis. (Pp 453; £15.) Churchill Livingstone. 1984.

As in previous editions, the authors describe the laboratory procedures in haematology, currently used and taught at Hammersmith Hospital and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London. While the structure of the book has remained essentially the same as in the 5th edition, the text has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. In particular, sections have been expanded on quality

assurance and standardisation, the application of cytochemistry to the differential diagnosis of leukaemias, and the investigation of haemostatic failure.

Although I would personally like to see some section of the book presented in greater depth, for example that on the preparation of blood components in a hospital blood bank, I must admit that the authors and their collaborators carefully selected for presentation in detail all the methods generally used. The methods of interest to a minority of laboratory haematologists are outlined in principle only.

The new edition of *Practical Haematology* is printed as a paperback, with two columns of text on a page. Bold headings, as well as an extensive index, help the reader to find easily the required information. The new edition, increased in size and with improved appearance, is an invaluable reference text worth possessing by every laboratory haematologist.

B BROZOVIC

**Antinuclear Antibodies.** Contemporary Techniques and Clinical Application to Connective Tissue Diseases. Gale A McCarty, Donald W Valencia, and Marvin J Fritzler. (Pp 95; £25.) Oxford University Press. 1984.

This is a short monograph on anti-nuclear antibodies. There have been many recent advances in the study of nuclear antigens and auto-antibodies which react with them in connective tissue diseases, and clinicians and laboratory workers will need to be kept up to date on progress. The text covers the main areas of work in this field. This includes the types of antibodies which are currently recognised and the methods of their detection. It gives details on both indirect immunofluorescence and counter immunoelectrophoresis. In addition to the methodological aspects the book provides a brief clinical resumé of the conditions which give rise to anti-nuclear antibodies. I found this an easily readable book and the text was lucid. Unfortunately there were areas where too much irrelevant technical detail was given; for example, detailed descriptions of how fluorescent microscopes should be set up, or a list of the diagnostic criteria for rheumatoid arthritis. It also misses out on a completely balanced approach. It did not describe all the methods which can be used to detect these antibodies, neither does it allude to the dif-

*Book reviews*

ferent immunoglobulin classes in which anti-nuclear antibodies can be found. Nonetheless, this is a relatively valuable book for laboratories who are on the point of starting a more detailed screening procedure for the various types of anti-nuclear antibodies or for clinicians who are puzzled by the complexity of much of the current research literature.

DL SCOTT

**Medical Microbiology.** Vol 3. Role of the Envelope in the Survival of Bacteria in Infection. Ed CSF Eason, J Jeljaszewicz, MRW Brown, PA Lambert. (Pp 264; £29.50.) Academic Press. 1983.

The editors have invited a number of scientists to contribute reviews summarising the proceedings of a meeting sponsored by the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy at Aston University. The book contains nine well written chapters which are concise yet comprehensive in their scope. There are numerous references in the text and a helpful list of references at the end of each chapter; the book is also well indexed. The chapter titles reflect the growing interest in the way environmental conditions influence the expression of bacterial envelope antigens. Particular attention is paid to recent studies on the effect of antibiotics on adhesion, phagocytosis, and resistance to humoral defence mechanisms. The book also emphasises how an understanding of the envelope antigens expressed during various stages of the pathogenic process can influence the development of new antimicrobial agents and vaccines.

Both medical and science students studying bacterial pathogenicity at undergraduate and postgraduate levels will find this collection of up to date reviews valuable. The extensive reference lists at the end of each chapter are particularly useful as guides for further reading.

The cost precludes the possibility of the average student owning a personal copy of the book. However, the book should join volumes 1 and 2 of the same series in the library of every medical microbiology department.

JH REID

**Lung Cancer.** Recent Results in Cancer Research. Vol 92. (Pp 132; DM 98; US \$38.50.) Springer. 1984.

This book records the proceedings of a

multidisciplinary symposium on lung cancer held at the Royal College of Radiologists in February 1983. It comprises 11 chapters and that by D Lamb will interest pathologists. The other 10 chapters deal with clinical diagnosis and staging, radiology, treatment (7 chapters) and future prospects. Lamb's chapter is entitled Pathology and Classification. It considers the various ways by which material may be obtained for the pathologist, as well as histopathological classification. The parts of the 1967 and 1981 WHO classifications dealing with epithelial tumours of the lung get major consideration but there are comparisons with the VALG and WPL classifications used in parts of the United States. The emphasis is on the problems met by the pathologists in applying the various classifications to the tumours he meets, and the practising pathologist will find either help or comfort in these pages. (The comfort comes from an appreciation that an expert experiences similar problems to oneself). Any pathologist dealing in tumour diagnosis will find Lamb's chapter well worth reading and the other chapters of interest, particularly that on future trends, typographical errors notwithstanding.

B CORRIN

**Malignant Lymphomas.** A Pathology Annual Monograph. Ed SC Sommers and PP Rosen. (Pp 333; £42.30.) Prentice-Hall International. 1983.

Malignant lymphomas are in the news. It was the submission of several articles on the subject to the Pathology Annual that led to the publication of this monograph—the first of its kind since the Pathology Annual began in 1966. The six articles here assembled are therefore quite independent of one another and while there is a certain degree of overlap, it is not to be expected that a book of this kind will be a systematic guide to malignant lymphomas, many aspects of which are not touched upon at all.

An introduction to the volume has been written by that wise and experienced haematopathologist, Dr Philip Lieberman, with pertinent critical comments on each of the six papers from the viewpoint of a "working surgical pathologist who sees a large number of haematopoietic cases per

year and not as a champion of a specific classification or laboratory technique". It is Dr Lieberman's detachment that makes his comments particularly valuable, for unfortunately so many others in the field have an axe to grind. This is clearly demonstrated in the first of the six articles which is "an appraisal of the 'Working Formulation' of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas for clinical usage" by BN Nathwani and CD Winberg. This paper contains a detailed analysis of the study sponsored by the National Cancer Institute in the USA—the reasons for the study, its objectives and its results, which led to the consensus classification termed the "Working Formulation", since each of the six pathological classifications which were compared in the study proved clinically useful and none was found to be superior to the others in predicting prognosis. After a factual account of the NCI study, the authors embark on a vigorous defence of the working formulation which came out of it, illustrating the ten categories in the "formulation" with case material of their own. The imperfections of the formulation and indeed of the study itself are glossed over while valid criticisms voiced by several distinguished pathologists in this field are summarily dismissed or side-stepped. Your reviewer, after reading this article, shared the misgivings expressed by Dr Lieberman in his introduction.

The second article is an interesting essay on proliferative disorders of histiocytes by three Japanese authors—S Watanabe, Y Shimamoto, and T Nakajima. Their main thesis is that histiocytic proliferations may involve one or other of two distinct populations of cells—either those of the monocyte-macrophage system of the T-zone histiocytes which include Langerhans' cells as well as interdigitating reticulum cells. In any given instance the origin of the proliferating cells may be determined by a series of discriminating enzyme histochemical and immunohistochemical tests. "Using these markers it was shown that solitary multifocal eosinophilic granuloma, Letterer-Siwe disease, systemic eruptive histiocytoma and most histiocytic medullary reticulosis (HMR) were proliferative disorders of T-zone histiocytes. On the other hand, the intestinal type of malignant histiocytosis was a proliferative disorder of the monocyte-macrophage system, as well as were many xanthomatous lesions of the skin, such as xanthoma disseminatum, solitary reticulo-histiocytoma, multicentric reticulohistiocytosis and xanthoma tuberosum". The only result likely to occur