

## Book reviews

**Monitoring Human Exposure to Carcinogenic and Mutagenic Agents.** Proceedings of a joint symposium held in Espoo, Finland December 1984. IARC Scientific Publications no 59. Ed A Berlin, M Draper, K Hemminki, H Vainio. (Pp 457; £25.) Oxford University Press. 1985.

The Janus faces of toxicology are its intellectual pursuit of chemical effects on living matter and, often quite separate, its practical use in predicting chemical hazards. Common to both is the need to measure the effective dose—that is, the quantity present at the active site—or better still bound to the sensitive enzyme DNA, or other vital macromolecule. The future of much investigative and predictive toxicology will centre on determining effective doses in man and other animals as the best means of setting safe limits on exposure.

The papers on this subject given at an international meeting in 1984 have now been published. They show that cytogenetics and various biochemical and immunological techniques are being developed to assay the sometimes very low levels of exposure to alkylating chemicals. The methods are sensitive as they may have to cope with femtomoles or less, and they are being pushed to the limits of present analytical capabilities. Attempts to apply them to workers exposed, for example, to ethylene oxide and organic amines have shown that reliable measurements can be made but that humans seem to carry a background load of alkylation, possibly due to diet, smoking habit, or endogenous nitrosation. The relation between “spontaneous” cancers and alkylating chemicals remains to be explored.

The book contains well written reviews in areas not readily covered by other sources. It will be of considerable interest to toxicologists, biochemists, epidemiologists, and others concerned with the safe use of chemicals.

AD DAYAN

**Myelofibrosis: Pathophysiology and Clinical Management.** Haematology Vol 4. Ed SM Lewis. (Pp 207; \$78.00.) Marcel Dekker. 1985.

I have always had some difficulty in precisely defining what is meant by myelofibrosis, and although I'm not sure that this book helps me towards this end, I

greatly enjoyed the collection of views covering all aspects of the subject. Dr Lewis refers to the twenty common synonyms used in the past and more appear in other chapters. Its place in the spectrum of myeloproliferative disorders is well reviewed by Dr Geary, and chapters on histology, ferrokinetics, cytogenetic studies, acute myelofibrosis and treatment thoroughly cover the clinical aspects. The chapter on haemopoietic progenitors by Hibbin and Goldman brings us up to date on recent experimental work, and it is perhaps surprising that the chapter on treatment contains no mention of a possible role for vitamin D when the *in vitro* studies look so interesting. This is a nice review of current information and attractively produced: whether it is a bargain at £56 for 200 pages (at current prices) is a matter for individual judgement.

A JACOBS

**Colour Atlas of Histopathology.** 3rd ed. RC Curran. (Pp 292; 804 photomicrographs; £22.50.) Oxford University Press. 1985.

This is a greatly improved version of the popular introductory atlas. The plates are larger and clearer with many new additions. The text has been amplified and better organised, and the index is comprehensive. Finally, the dimensions of the book now permit its inclusion on the bookshelf rather than the coffee table. Although the stated target is undergraduates, the atlas will continue to be best used by juniors during their first few bewildering months of diagnostic histopathology. It will also be of value to enquiring medical laboratory scientific officers. The only fault is a paucity of architectural views. “High power pathologists use low power lenses”: this book does reinforce the tendency of beginners to go straight to high power. This detail excepted, the atlas is practical, inexpensive, and highly recommended. It should be found beside the microscope of any first year pathologist.

S KNOWLES

**The Urinary Tract and the Catheter.** Infection and other Problems. (Pp 126; £17.) John Wiley. 1985.

This is a well written, informative, but expensive little book. The text and illustrations are attractively presented, and there is a comprehensive and useful list of references at the end of each chapter. It aims to be a

practical guide to the care of patients with disorders of micturition, including incontinence, which require management by catheters or other appliances. The book achieves its object with a clear description of basic urological principles, and microbiologists will find the chapters dealing with these matters educational. They are, however, unlikely to discover many new facts in the sections concerned with sterilisation and disinfection of catheters and endoscopes, and the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of urinary tract infections.

The book is ideally suited to the needs of nursing officers working in infection control, and they should be encouraged to read the whole text.

JD SLEIGH

**Isolation and Identification of Micro-Organisms of Medical and Veterinary Importance.** The Society for Applied Bacteriology Technical Series no 21. Ed CH Collins, JM Grange. (Pp 387; £45.) Academic Press Inc. 1985.

The pedestrian title given to this volume belies the extremely informative contents of the book. The editors have made a personal selection of 24 organisms that are not often handled extensively in diagnostic laboratories and have commissioned well known authorities in each field to write a chapter in such a manner that a laboratory faced with the need to set up an investigation could use the relevant chapter as a laboratory manual. Hence this is a laboratory manual of little used tests and media. The omission of instructions for tests commonly performed in diagnostic laboratories permits space for detailed and practical instructions for the relevant investigations.

The organisms covered are: Pseudomonads and related bacteria; Vibrios, Aeromonas and Pleisomonas; Klebsiellas; *Pasteurella multocida*; Brucellas; *Yersinia enterocolytica* and related species; Legionellas; *Gardnerella vaginalis*; Campylobacters; *Niesseria gonorrhoeae*; differentiation of Staphylococci; *Streptococcus mutans* and other streptococci from the oral cavity; listeriosis in farm animals in Great Britain; *Listeria monocytogenes*; *Bacillus anthracis*; Clostridia; detection of *Clostridium difficile* enterotoxin; leptospirosis and leptospirosis; Mycobacteria; primary isolation of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Chlamydia psittaci* in *in vitro* cell culture; *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*; detection and isolation of pathogenic fungi; bovine mastitis (examination of milk in control schemes); bacteria associated with diseases of fish.