

addition to committing to memory some of the many eponymous quotations for subsequent casual use at carefully staged occasions, few, if any, of us can fail to learn from the advice given, some of which comprises a return to old fashioned values (sentences should have a subject, verb, and object, or that writing needs a beginning, a middle, and an end, or that misspelling matters); but some is new fangled, especially the chapter on the literary and technical strengths and limitations of writing with the help of a word processor.

This book has been written by the editor of a scientific journal that is to be found in all our laboratories, and it tells us how to write correct English usage and plan, structure, and complete a thesis, a scientific paper, or a book. We are urged not to forget that Rudyard Kipling's brainchild, the six honest men "What and Why and When, How and Where and Who" is still relevant, as it represents a reader's unspoken questions that the author must answer; that short sentences and paragraphs improve comprehension and impact; that a clause in parentheses (such as these) should be able to stand on its own. Finally, this book teaches us how to negotiate the payment in a publisher's contract, the procedure for contesting a rejection, how to review a book, how to edit and proof read to avoid the verbal prolixity and mistakes that often creep into so much writing, including this review.

Shorten the above review by half and correct the errors, or buy this book.

RAB DRURY

Sarcoidosis. 2nd ed. JG Scadding and DN Mitchell. (Pp 704; £55.) Chapman and Hall Medical. 1985.

With the addition of a second author this is an updated version of the 1967 text, retaining many illustrations, Tables, and references as before. It is mainly clinical, dealing with each system and organ at considerable length, with quotations from the literature comprising 20% of the book. The authors do not accept the International Committee's description and define sarcoidosis as "a disease characterised by the histological finding of multisystem tubercles" though willing to diagnose "in the belief" that tubercles are present without biopsy in typical clinical situations. There are adequate accounts of newer techniques for diagnosis, immunology, and aetiology, but an overemphasis on the Kveim test. Histopathologists may object to the use of "tuber-

cle" instead of "granuloma" and find that pathology differential diagnosis is rather inadequate. The book will deservedly be on the shelf of most clinical sarcoidologists as it provides an exhaustive review, particularly of the older literature.

W JONES WILLIAMS

Burkitt's Lymphoma: A Human Cancer Model. IARC Scientific Publications No 60. Ed GM Lenoir, GT O'Connor, CLM Olweny. (Pp 484; £20.) Oxford University Press. 1985.

This book comprises the proceedings of a symposium held under the auspices of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO) to mark the 25th anniversary of the first publication by Dr Dennis Burkitt on the tumour which now bears his name.

Dr Burkitt himself writes the first chapter, which should be read again and again by basic scientists who too often denigrate "simple" clinicians. Without Burkitt's astute observations scores of epidemiologists, pathologists, virologists, immunologists, cytogeneticists, and molecular biologists would be without a job, for such has been the impact of the discovery of this fascinating tumour. No other tumour has been so thoroughly and successfully investigated, and no worker in cancer research, whatever the field, can afford to be without this book.

The symposium brought together a wide variety of experts from all over the world, and each contribution to those proceedings is a concise summary of an aspect either of Burkitt's lymphoma itself or the Epstein-Barr virus and its related conditions. Each chapter is a precise highly readable account of first class scientific research and is followed by a well balanced and, fortunately, not overlong list of references.

At £20 this is a very modestly priced book and I recommend it enthusiastically.

PG ISAACSON

Interferons. Their Impact in Biology and Medicine. Ed Joyce Taylor-Papadimitriou. (Pp 148; £20.) Oxford University Press. 1985.

This book has been planned and edited by a scientist who made important contributions in the early days of interferon research and is still active in the field. She has successfully arranged it to present the field as it appears in the 1980s. It starts with readable descrip-

tions of the genes and of their regulation and control. There is a good chapter on the effects of interferon(s) on virus replication in vitro and a judicious chapter on the interactions with the immune system. It continues with condensed but readable account of how interferons participate in the production of infectious diseases and may be used to treat them, one day! Finally there is a chapter on interferon and the treatment of cancer which shows that in certain tumours interferon(s) treatment confers enough benefit to justify full phase III studies.

The authors are all international experts but write for the general reader of biology or medicine. The contributions are adequately referenced but only a few citations are for 1984, presumably a late chapter! There are of course competing books on interferons but this seemed to be a good one; it would be valuable to someone new to the field who had a little background, or to update someone who had not time to read the original papers or the "heavier" reviews.

DAJ TYRRELL

Recent Advances in Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases. Ed Y Kimura, S Kotani, Y Shiokawa. (Pp 369; £48.) Reedbook. 1985.

The participants in the IXth Lancefield International Symposium on streptococci and streptococcal diseases, together with the editors and the publishers, are to be congratulated on producing the proceedings of the symposium so quickly and to such a high standard. This book contains nearly 100 abstracts on comprehensively diverse aspects of streptococci and streptococcal diseases. It is not, therefore, a book to be read through, but it is so packed with interesting information that it will appeal to both expert and amateur alike. Many of the sections such as the epidemiology, identification of streptococci, clinical aspects, and effects of antibiotics, can be recommended without reservation to the general reader. This in no way detracts from the other excellent sections that deal with more specialised matters such as cellular components, extracellular products, genetics, immune responses, and so on. This comprehensive collection of recently presented pieces of work makes a most useful up to date source of reference and, like its predecessors from earlier symposia, should find its way not only on the library shelves but on to the book shelf of the busy laboratory where much of the information contained therein will be both useful and pertinent to the daily round.

DM JONES