

In the second section the emphasis is on free radicals with no less than seven chapters dealing with this explosively expanding field. A further seven chapters deal with cytolytic proteins and their role in producing tissue damage and defense.

The third section has four chapters devoted to pulmonary aspects, particularly timely with the immense amount of interest that has been aroused recently in this area. The remaining two chapters deal with sarcoidosis and psoriasis. It is interesting how the increased knowledge of the biological properties of the lipoxigenase pathway are being applied to human disease.

The editors are to be congratulated on this book, which will prove valuable to those many devotees of inflammation and it will be useful for those in the pharmaceutical industry and academia alike. We look forward to the next volume with interest.

DA WILLOUGHBY

Silicon Biochemistry. Ciba Foundation Symposium 121. (Pp 264; £27.50.) John Wiley. 1986. ISBN 0 471 91025 2.

This symposium has produced a series of most interesting papers that begin to highlight the importance of silica in biological systems. Those of us who have been involved in the study of the pneumoconioses have always maintained that we have only been on the fringe of a much larger field of investigation. I think that the appreciation of this problem would have been clarified for the readers of this journal if two more basic papers had been included, covering the mineralogical and basic chemistry of silicon dioxide, emphasising the forms of the material in the environment, and structure and surface properties, leading from the chemistry and physics into the biochemistry. The other improvement would have been to have a chapter on the earlier studies on the effects of the inhalation of silica on man and experimental animals showing the investigations of Kettle and King in this country and Leroy Gardner in the United States, which led to the concepts discussed at the symposium.

JC WAGNER

Urinary Sediment and Urinalysis. A Practical Guide for the Health Science Professional. TA Stamey, RW Kindrachuk. (Pp 104; soft cover £17.50.) WB Saunders. 1985. ISBN 0-7216-1412-4.

Microscopy of the urine carried out personally by the clinician is an essential step in the

diagnosis of urinary tract disease. Sadly, it is all too rarely carried out. This neat pocket sized booklet not only re-emphasises the need for microscopy but gives practical details as to how it should be carried out and contains such superb illustrations that no one should be in any doubt as to what is being looked for.

The only possible criticism of the booklet is the insistence on rather elaborate techniques for the collection of urine samples in both men and women. These techniques have been of great value for research and contributed considerably to the senior author's distinguished work at Stanford University. They are, however, not practical, or in general, necessary for busy urological clinics. It is unfortunate that no mention is made of more generally applicable methods for collecting "clean catch mid stream urine samples" from women. This is a serious omission.

Given these slight criticisms, the book is very highly recommended, although perhaps a little expensive.

WR CATTELL

Options for the Control of Influenza. Ed AP Kendal, PA Patriarca. (Pp 568; 61.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1986. ISBN 0-8451-2635-0.

This book has been produced from camera ready copy quite soon after the meeting in April 1985. Much of it consists of thorough reviews of the present state of knowledge of influenza viruses, their basic structure and epidemiology, and methods used for control, such as inactivated vaccines in the elderly and the young. There are also good reviews on live attenuated viruses, mainly recent United States work with cold-adapted reassortant strains, and on experience with amantadine, rimantadine, and ribavirin, although it is admitted that these have had little impact on the disease as a whole. The following sections summarise experiments on producing influenza vaccines by means of engineered yeast cells or vaccinia, or even synthetic peptides, and a series of papers reflecting a flurry of work on the mode of stimulation and recognition of influenza A by cytotoxic T cells in the mouse. All this was followed up by workshops on related topics, which are briefly summarised. The last section proposes more active and widespread measures to control influenza.

This volume is valuable to anyone in the field as it is a useful blend of general reviews and state of the art views on some viral immunology.

DR TYRRELL

Notices

Fifth European Conference on Clinical Haemorrhology, Bordeaux, June 29-30, July 1 1987

The 5th European Conference on Clinical Haemorrhology will be held in Bordeaux (France) from June 29 to July 1 1987 (Presidents Professor P Boivin and Professor J-F Stoltz).

The main topic will be the importance of blood methodology to clinical studies and there will be interdisciplinary sessions organised in collaboration with specialist societies for angiology haematology, neurology, and thrombotic disorders.

For further information from: Professor Michel R Boisseau, Secretariat Scientifique, Laboratoire d'Hématologie, Hôpital Cardiologique, Avenue Magellan, 33604-PESSAC—France.

Current Topics in Chemical Pathology

Advance announcement in view of change of date and venue

The one day course in Chemical Pathology has been arranged at The Barbican Centre, London, on Friday, October 30th 1987.

The course is open to members of the Association of Clinical Pathologists, the Association of Clinical Biochemists, and all others who are interested in current developments. The Registration fee will be £20.00, which will include the cost of coffee, lunch, and tea. Notice for Registration will be made later in 1987.