

enzyme and Ig-ALP complexes were used in the derivation of merit statistics. Although maximum information is obtained by the parallel use of separative and non-separative methods,¹ we note that separative methods can be difficult to interpret,^{1,2} that high molecular weight forms of alkaline phosphatase with and without lipoprotein-X may indicate different disease processes,³ and that the presence of particulate ALP and lipoprotein-X are thought by some to be poor general indicators of liver disease.⁴ In addition, the diagnostic importance of

ALP-immunoglobulin complexes remains unclear.¹

M SHEPHERD

M PEAKE

R WALMSLEY

Department of Biochemistry
and Chemical Pathology,

Flinders Medical Centre, Bedford Park,
South Australia 5042.

References

- 1 Moss DW. Alkaline phosphatase isoenzymes. *Clin Chem* 1982;28:2007-16.
- 2 Burlina A, Plebani M, Rizotti P. Biliary alkaline phosphatase isoenzyme in diagnosis of cholestasis. *Clin Chem* 1984;30:172-4.
- 3 Wulkan RW, Leijnse B. Alkaline phosphatase and cholestasis. *Ann Clin Biochem* 1986; 23:405-12.
- 4 Brocklehurst D, Wilde CE, Doar JWH. The incidence and likely origins of serum particulate alkaline phosphatase and lipoprotein-X in liver disease. *Clin Chim Acta* 1978;88: 509-15.

Book reviews

Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

Cancer and its Management. R Souhami, J Tobias. (Pp 526; £55.) Blackwells. 1986. ISBN 0-632-01373-7.

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans Vol 39. Some Chemicals used in Plastics and Elastomers. (Pp 403; Sw fr 60.) World Health Organisation. 1986. ISBN 92-832-1239-8.

Directory of On-Going Research in Cancer Epidemiology. (IARC No 80.) Ed CS Muir, G Wagner. (Pp 817; soft cover £22.) Oxford University Press. 1986. ISBN 92-832-1180-4.

Basic Tests for Pharmaceutical Substances. (Pp 204; Sw fr 34.) World Health Organisation. 1986. ISBN 92-4-154294-7.

Yersiniosis. Lab Diagnosis, Clinical Features, Epidemiology. Nicholas S Mair, Eric Fox. (Pp 48; £10-00 post and package inc; cheque with order please). PHLS Supplies, 175 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HW. 1986. ISBN 0 901144 169.

A paperback has to be good if it costs about 20p per page—does this one give value for

money? For the clinical laboratory concerned with enteric bacteriology and with the investigation of febrile patients and for laboratories concerned with public health work, it does. For years Dr Mair has provided a reference service in yersiniosis, and many of us have valued his expertise and advice. Now his experience has been distilled with the collaboration of Mr Fox of the Leicester Public Health Laboratory into this monograph.

The clinical features of yersiniosis are considered briefly before the main theme of the laboratory aspect of this genus (excluding *Y pestis*). The laboratory work is considered under the headings of the diagnosis of human infections; isolation from animals, food and environment, and then the identification of *Yersinia*. Finally, there is a brief consideration of the pathogenicity and virulence of members of the genus before the all important appendix containing details of relevant media and the list of 67 references (ranging from 1933 to 1984).

There is much of practical value in this book, with useful hints and wrinkles (which can make all the difference between success and failure!). It is a pity that the three microphotographs are poorly reproduced in black and white: colour would have been so much better, but the price would no doubt then have brought colour to the cheeks of the purchaser.

RJ FALLON

Monoclonal Antibodies in Clinical Diagnostic Medicine. Ed David S Gordon. (Pp 199; No price given.) Igaku-Shoin. 1985.

The rapidity of advances in the monoclonal antibody field makes the appearance of this book both appropriate and timely. Under the general guidance of an editor, several

specialist medical and non-medical authors have contributed chapters. Some of these deal with the widespread use of monoclonal antibodies within the laboratory and emphasise the development of techniques such as radioimmunoassay, fluorometric and enzyme linked immunoassays, and diagnostic immunology. In the histological field the application of monoclonal antibodies to tissue section diagnosis and flow cytometry is well covered. Diagnostic laboratory diagnosis more directly applied to the clinical side of medicine is shown by the use of monoclonal antibodies in the diagnosis of cancer, infectious disease, endocrinology and rheumatology.

The aim of the book is to make practical information about a relatively new technique available to a wider audience, and in this it succeeds. Inevitably, the depth of information imparted varies between the contributors, and in some specialist areas, a substantial amount of additional reading would be necessary before the techniques discussed could be extensively applied in laboratory practice.

A good read for the partially initiated, but perhaps a brief simple explanation of the methods of raising monoclonal antibodies, would have added to the understanding of the uninitiated approaching this topic for the first time.

GW PENNINGTON

Recent Advances in Neuropathology. No. 3. Ed JB Cavanagh. (Pp 167; £30-00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1986. ISBN 0-443-0-3226-2.

This multiauthor volume comprises seven well written, illustrated, and referenced chapters. Chapter 1 reviews the current perspectives of intermediate filaments, cell surface proteins, and glycolipid galacto-