

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

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References

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- 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-

cerebroside in glia and the role of laminin, fibronectin, and collagen type IV in axon outgrowth in development and regeneration. The second describes the application of monoclonal antibody techniques to the diagnosis of solid tumours and cytology, and the third host resistance to gliomas. Chapter 4 summarises the parts played by histology, immunohistochemistry, and TEM in a new classification of pituitary adenomas. Chapter 5 gives a morphometric assessment of nerves in diabetic polyneuropathy, providing evidence of a vascular rather than a metabolic basis for the disorder. Chapter 6 describes the many advances that have taken place in peripheral neuropathies of domestic animals, some of which are likely to be of interest as models of specific human diseases, and the final chapter is an account of the pathology and pathogenesis of decompression sickness in man and animals.

This, the third volume, has maintained the ideals of the series by bringing together authors with particular expertise in some aspect of the growing points of neuropathology. The range of subjects covered is wide and should therefore be of great interest to all those with an interest in neuropathology.

DI GRAHAM

Cancer Occurrence in Developing Countries. Ed DM Parkin. (IARC No 75.) (Pp 389; £20.00.) Oxford University Press. 1986. ISBN 92 832 1175 8.

The myth that cancer is predominantly a disease of the "Western" industrialised world persists, despite the increasing evidence to the contrary. It has been estimated that over half the new cases of cancer developing over the next year will occur in the poorer countries of the world—at least 5.8 million. The differences in the incidence of individual cancers between "developed" and "developing" countries, and within developing countries have enabled investigators to produce and test causal hypotheses of great value. For example, in the field of viral aetiology—Burkitt's lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, and hepatocellular carcinoma. Dr Parkin and his collaborators in the "South" (Brandt), have gathered together data from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceania (46 countries in all), which provide an overview of the incidence of cancers in developing countries. Inevitably, the sources of error and bias vary from place to place but, provided the data are interpreted

critically, in the light of the introductory chapter, valuable inferences can be made on which to base aetiological hypotheses.

This is a valuable reference book for anyone with an interest in cancer epidemiology and causation. It is also a tribute to the many pathologists who work in these regions, for nearly all the data come from pathology based Cancer Registries.

MSR HUTT

Pathology of the Eye. GOH Naumann, DJ Apple. Translated by DJ Apple. (Pp 998; 544 figs; DM 720.) Springer-Verlag. 1986. ISBN 3-540-96044-9.

By any standards, at £259, this book is expensive, and this is presumably because demand is limited in the highly specialised field of ophthalmic pathology. It must be stated quite definitely that this book is a work of outstanding quality which will be of service to academic ophthalmology and pathology for many decades. It should be regarded as an encyclopaedia for continual reference by clinicians and by any general pathologist who has an interest in ocular disease. The basic value of the book is that it provides a beautifully illustrated and concisely described summary of every known clinical entity with supplementary and complementary pathological information, which is addressed in an equally impressive manner. Only rarely does one encounter in a textbook photomicrographs of such high quality and didactic diagrams and tables that are so precise and so informative. The bibliography can only be described as vast, with some 5000 citations: there are very few entities for which references are not cited.

The background and approaches of the authors are those of the clinical ophthalmologist who has an extensive knowledge of histopathology. Wisely, for this reason, the book does not deal in depth with topics, such as melanocytic tumours of conjunctiva, lymphoid tumours, and unusual orbital and eyelid tumours, which are ultimately the province of an investigator who has a total commitment to histopathology. Nevertheless, the citations will always provide a rapid route to the relevant literature.

This book, in essence, will be of greatest value as a reference volume in a general pathology department; it provides a concise but comprehensive clinicopathological background to ocular disease as it is encountered in the Western world.

WR LEE

Arthroscopic Shoulder Anatomy. Pathology and Surgical Implications. DA Detrisac, L Johnson. (Pp 157; £55.20.) John Wiley. 1986. ISBN: 0-943432-68-5.

Arthroscopy of the knee is now commonplace, and it is inevitable that the arthroscopist should be used to explore other joints especially if the joint cavity is reasonably capacious, like the shoulder. This book describes the arthroscopic appearances of the normal and abnormal glenohumeral joint, subacromial bursa and, indeed, the acromioclavicular joint, as seen through the arthroscope. It correlates these appearances with the gross anatomy of the postmortem specimen. The various approaches of portals of entry to the joint are well described in relation to the anatomical structures which might be compromised and visualised. The book is extremely well illustrated but will be of more interest to orthopaedic surgeons than morbid anatomists.

AWF LETTICE

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans. Vol 37. Tobacco Habits other ... than Smoking; Betel-Quid and Areca-Nut Chewing and some related Nitrosamines. (Pp 291; £35.00; fr 70.) World Health Organisation. 1986. ISBN 92 832 1237 1.

These two monographs truly live up to the titles, presenting an exhaustive evaluation of the carcinogenicity of tobacco to man. The telling evidence is, of course, largely statistical and epidemiological, and together with a review of tobacco itself and the peculiar ways it is brought into contact with the human body, this is what these reviews provide. They contain little pathology but would be of interest, and an invaluable reference source, to pathologists interested in the epidemiological evidence incriminating tobacco as a major cause of cancer. As well as lung and the urinary tract, volume 38 considers the upper respiratory and upper digestive tracts, the stomach, liver, pancreas, cervix, endometrium and breast. Interactions with other carcinogens such as asbestos and radiation are examined, and appendices provide data on international tobacco sales and chemicals identified in tobacco smoke that have been evaluated for carcinogenicity in previous IARC monographs. Together, these volumes provide a very useful source of reference.

B CORRIGAN