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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2 Burlina A, Plebani M, Rizotti P. Biliary alkaline phosphatase isoenzyme in diagnosis of cholestasis. *Clin Chem* 1984;**30**:172–4.
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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 Heath 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 16 9.

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 pathogenecity 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-

Introduction to the Cellular and Molecular Biology of Cancer. Ed LM Franks, N Teich. (Pp 458; $15.00 paperback; $3.00 hardback.) Oxford University Press. 1986. ISBN 0 19 854168 6 paperback; ISBN 0 19 854169 4 hardback.

The concepts and terminology of recent developments in molecular biology are daunting to those not actively involved in this work. It is essential, however, that all pathologists are aware of these developments as they are providing new insights into the behaviour of normal and malignant cells. This book is the ideal solution, being a well edited review of the wide variety of new knowledge which is available in various aspects of cancer research, and provided by contributors, many of international repute, and all having connections with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. The topics covered range from epidemiology of cancer to its treatment; especially to be recommended for intellectual stimulation are the chapters on oncogenes and cancer by Teich, chromosomes and cancer by Sheer, and the role of growth factors in cancer by Waterfield.

In the preface the editors write that they hope that all the chapters are comprehensible. The answer is yes, and this book is to be recommended to those pathologists (hopefully the majority) who continue to derive stimulation from learning and assimilating new ideas.

DA WINFIELD

Tumours of the Nervous System. An Ultrastructural Atlas. TH Moss. (Pp 166; 120 figs; £88·00.) Springer. 1986. ISBN 3-540-16858-3.

It can be easily argued that tumours of the nervous system present a more striking variety of histological derivation than those of any other organ. They can arise from neurons, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes and ependymal cells, from endocrine organs associated with the brain (the pituitary and pineal glands), from the retina, from meningeal tissues and supporting elements of cranial and peripheral nerves, from the vascular tree permeating neural tissue, and from lymphoid cells. This list is far from complete and does not include hamartomatous lesions and secondary deposits. Furthermore, tumours of neuroepithelial derivations are often mixed, being composed of more than one cell population and their cells have the propensity, particularly the primitive ones, to differentiate into more mature forms. This histological diversity of neural tumours and the cellular heterogeneity and pleomorphism which may exit within a single neoplasm may present considerable diagnostic problems.

Electron microscopy has provided considerable help in the diagnosis of brain tumours. Moreover, it has also contributed invaluable information on the origin and development of some of the neural tumours. This ultrastructural atlas is a useful guide in the complexities of the diagnostic problems of the tumours of the nervous system. The author systematically, but not comprehensively, reviews the ultrastructural features of most, but by no means all, neoplasms afflicting the nervous system. Space is allocated according to the wealth of diagnostic ultrastructural properties of various tumour types and not according to their prevalence. A concise and illuminating description with a short reference list for future reading introduces each entity. The electron micrographs which follow are consistently of high quality and mostly of full page size. The atlas will be particularly useful for general histopathologists who may have to deal with neurosurgical biopsies and for trainee neuropathologists who have just been confronted with the diagnostic difficulties of neural neoplasia.

PL LANTOS

Principles of Toxicokinetic Studies. Environmental Health Criteria 57. (Pp 166; Sw fr 14.) World Health Organization Geneva. 1986. ISBN 92 4 154257 8.

Some may consider that pharmacokinetics is all to do with arithmetic and others that toxicology is only concerned with chemicals that make you sick. In fact, neither discipline can develop without the other, especially not understanding the mechanisms of toxic reactions. Once the reader has overcome the distaste produced by "toxicokinetic", a neologism sufficiently senile as almost to be acceptable, he will find a clear and careful account of basic pharmacokinetics and its application in toxicology. There are good descriptions of how quantitatively to evaluate data about absorption, disposition, and clearance about multicompartmental and non-linear kinetics, and more briefly, of their application in the assessment of human exposure.

This short monograph can be recommended as an early text to anyone interested in kinetics whether to do with medicines or toxicants.

AD DAYAN

Notices

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr David Melcher, Histopathology Department, Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE.

Prize: Biochemical analysis 1988

The German Society for Clinical Chemistry awards the prize, Biochemical Analysis, every two years at the conference Biochemische Analytik in Munich. The prize of DM 20 000 is donated by Boehringer Mannheim GMBH for outstanding and novel work in the field of biochemical analysis, or biochemical instrumentation, or for important contributions to the advancement in experimental biology, especially relating to clinical biochemistry.

Competitors for the 1988 prize (conference April 19–22, 1988) should submit papers concerning one theme, either published or accepted for publication between October 1 1985 and September 30 1987, before October 15 1987 to: Professor Dr H Feldmann, Secretary of the prize Biochemical Analysis, Institut für Physiologische Chemie der Universität, Goethestraße 33, D-8000 München 2, West Germany.

If the work is multiauthorial please indicate the name(s) of the candidate(s).

25th ANNIVERSARY

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

Silver Jubilee Meeting
September 8–11, 1987
London

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	← Haematology →		Reception
	Cytopathology	Histopathology	
Thursday September 10	Genetics	Plenary Session	Conference
	Immunology		Banquet
Friday September 11	← Histopathology →		
	← Medical Microbiology →		
	Toxicology	Neuropathology	

Full details of the programme, containing full session titles, all speakers, and chairmen, are now available. Included are details regarding the social programme, hotel accommodation, and registration fees. **Day tickets for your specialised symposia also available.**

The plenary session, *Pathology in a Changing World*, will be chaired by the President, Professor Barbara E Clayton, CBE, on Thursday afternoon September 10.

Individual sessions will be on recent advances, and the problems of practising pathologists, with contributions by distinguished speakers from the United Kingdom and overseas.

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For further information and a copy of the programme please contact:

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