

cases of myocarditis, and from necrotic cardiac muscle cells in cases of recent myocardial infarction. I have also studied damaged and regenerating skeletal muscle, and can confirm these authors' observations that necrotic muscle cells do not show desmin expression, whereas regenerating cells show increased desmin staining (using the monoclonal anti-desmin antibody-De-R-11). I agree that the loss of desmin expression may provide a sensitive indicator of muscle damage.

Book reviews

Analytical Procedures for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Emergency Toxicology, 2nd ed. R C Baselt. (Pp 329; £34). Wright. 1987. ISBN 0-88416-722-4.

The first edition of this book, published in 1980, was, and is, a useful collection of analytical methods for about 100 chemical substances, ranging from trace elements and toxic anions to anaesthetic agents and therapeutic drugs. The second edition reprints nearly all of these methods word for word, together with new sections on amikacin, cannabinoids, cimetidine, cyclosporine, tetracyclic antidepressants, tobramycin, and verapamil. For each substance there is a brief introduction (with an indication of the therapeutic and fatal concentrations in relevant body fluids, and the plasma half life), followed by a summary statement of the principle of the analytical method, the reagents needed, instrumental conditions, procedure, calculation, evaluation (linearity, precision etc.), interferences, and key references. Most of the references antedate the 1980 edition which is a pity because there have been significant advances in the analytical toxicology of important substances like chlorpromazine and cyanide. It is also surprising that the methods have been reprinted without the addition of structural formulae of the compounds themselves or their metabolites. The index of the first edition is more comprehensive than that of the second. The telegraphic layout of the methods is fine for laboratories which are experienced in chemical toxicology, but the book is not to be recommended for beginners in the subject.

SS BROWN

Gastritis. A Critical Review. R Chelli, A Perasso, A Giacosa. (Pp 242; 40 figs.; DM 142). Springer. 1987. USBN 3-540-17466-4.

This selective, critical review of the literature on gastritis is supplemented by corroborative or challenging studies by the authors. Limited information on *Campylobacter pyloridis* is included but its role is not clarified, although recent communications indicate that the organism appears to cause acute gastritis following ingestion of cultures and is probably aetiologically involved in "active" chronic gastritis. There is an excellent description of drug induced lesions of the gastric mucosa. Alcohol is accepted as a cause of acute gastritis, and as one of many factors in antral chronic gastritis, but it plays no part in chronic gastritis of the fundus. Significant differences between chronic atrophic diffuse gastritis and gastric atrophy do not emerge from cell counts of lamina propria inflammatory cells and intra-epithelial lymphocytes. Observations are made on dysplasia, Menetrier's disease, eosinophilic gastritis, and varioliform gastritis which are of current interest. There is a wealth of detail in this review which will be immensely valuable to all those with a special interest in gastritis.

H THOMPSON

Whipple's Disease. WO Dobbins III. (Pp 242; \$44.75.) Charles C Thomas. 1987. ISBN 0-398-05317-0.

This rare and intriguing disease has tantalised medical specialists of all kinds, for over 80 years and not just those belonging to the gastroenterological fraternity. The challenge presented by its extraordinary pathological and microbiological features, its strange epidemiology, and its protean clinical manifestations is outlined in meticulous detail in this remarkable monograph. Indeed, it is hard to find any aspect of the disease which is not analysed within its pages; even the exact location of every published case is recorded. That is not to say, however, that there are not many problems which remain to be solved; far from it. Even so an aspiring investigator would be ill advised to embark on any research project relating to Whipple's disease without having consulted this book. It can also be highly commended for more general reading as it is abundantly clear that this strange disease may put in its appearance in unexpected places and it would indeed be a misfortune if any case were to be missed.

FD LEE

Recognition of M Leprae Antigens. T Ottenhoff, R de Vries. (Pp 153; £37.50.) Marinus Nijhoff. 1987. ISBN 0-89838-887-2.

This book comprises nine chapters, six of which are presented as self contained papers. Each chapter is well referenced. The first chapter introduces the reader to the basic working of the immune system with particular reference to MHC restriction and immune response genes, whilst the second chapter concentrates on the immunogenetics of leprosy. Essentially the next three chapters are presented as scientific papers with introduction, method, etc, utilising cloned T cells from leprosy patients. Chapters 6 and 7 study the effects of the possession of DR3 molecules in predisposing to the development of tuberculoid leprosy. Chapter 8 discusses the evidence for HLA-DR4-associated immune response gene for *M tuberculosis*, as DR4 is associated with a high responsiveness to *M tuberculosis* in a group of Spanish leprosy patients.

Unfortunately the authors do themselves a disservice by the rather vague title and one feels that this very readable and informative collection of papers may be overlooked by the very people it is aimed at. There is a large amount of repetition particularly in the introduction to each chapter. Overall I found the use of leprosy as a model for the study of immune response genes to be exciting and likely to be very productive in the years to come. My only other criticism is that over £30 for 150 pages is to my mind rather excessive.

JS JENKINS

Immunological Diagnosis of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Clinical and Biochemical Analysis 23. Ed H Young, A McMillan. (Pp 546; \$150.) Marcel Dekker. 1987. ISBN 0-8247-7808-1.

Most books on sexually transmitted diseases covering a range of topics are concerned with the clinical and microbiological aspects with emphasis on one or the other. Nowhere before has the diagnosis of disease by immunological means been treated in such depth. The book comprises 17 chapters covering the important sexually transmitted infections and, as might be expected, there is considerable emphasis on the development and use of monoclonal antibodies. I was impressed, not only by the chapters concerned with topics for which there would seem to be considerable information more or less easily available, for example those on gon-

ococcal, chlamydial, and treponemal infections, but also by chapters on topics for which information is more scarce; for example those on trichomonal, protozoal and human papillomavirus infections. A tendency for some authors outside Britain to not do justice to the British literature is only a small criticism of a book which contains a mine of information and which is very nicely produced. I have to say, however, that despite the decreasing value of the dollar, £80 or thereabouts for a book of this size seems extortionate, and it is likely only to find a place as a departmental book or in a library.

D TAYLOR-ROBINSON

Practical Paediatric Haematology. A Laboratory worker's Guide to Blood Disorders in Children. Ed RF Hinchliffe, JS Lilleyman. (Pp 410; £42.50.) John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 1987. ISBN 0-471-91029-5.

This excellent book sets out to help the laboratory haematologist, specifically the non-paediatric specialist, to find a way through the labyrinth of paediatric blood disorders, and advise practically how to investigate and manage such situations. Despite its limited objectives it achieves more than that. Every haematology laboratory should provide a blood sampling service for children and cope adequately with small samples. So many do not! The first three chapters contain the most useful, practical, easy to follow advice on sampling which I have seen in any text, and even specialist paediatric haematology staff would benefit from reading and digesting the contents. Despite no pretensions to comprehensive coverage the review of marrow changes are amazingly complete, especially the tables covering the "bewildering constellation of eponymous" storage disorders. There is a slight tendency with those and in the very comprehensive chapter on cypopenias and bone marrow failure to go beyond the remit of the book but as a specialist those are the parts I enjoyed most. In fact I had not expected such a wealth and breadth of knowledge compacted into such a small book. All you need to guide you through blood product transfusion, investigation of haemolysis, or marrow infiltration is there. There are very nice touches such as "parents frequently ask", "with children a friendly and positive approach is important" etc. Despite what our political masters may say

laboratory workers, medical or scientific, are and should be in close contact with patients. They want to understand not just the machines and values but what it means to patients, especially children, with whom in my experience staff more often than not have great rapport and empathy.

This volume serves as a reference work in terms of its final chapter of normal ranges, and in methodology, but is so readable as a practically comprehensive work. All the authors and especially the editors should be congratulated in their efforts. This book is essential reading for all, no matter whom, who have any contact with children and their blood disorders. It should be on the shelf in every laboratory ready for easy access.

OB EDEN

Autoimmunity and Autoimmune Disease. CIBA Foundation Symposium 129. (Pp 278; 28.95.) John Willey. 1987. ISBN 0 471 91095 3.

This is a vintage addition to the admirable Ciba Foundation series. Factual enough to be informative, sufficiently interwoven with narrative to be readable, and with an ample measure of admitted ignorance, it provides the perfect summary for the initiated and the novice alike. Practised readers will be struck by the manner in which yesterday's dogmatism has evaporated. Is autoimmunity really totally divorced from conventional immunity? Is it so clearly the converse of tolerance? The failure of normal immunity are more subtle. No one, for example, can pontificate on forbidden clones and blithely ignore complement defects. The ambitious newcomer, aware that this group of diseases still presents an unscaled precipice to the investigational climber, can never hope to grasp the nub of the problem from the ever receding river of journal articles but can do so from this distillate. If the discussions after each presentation were all that the book contained it would still present a wealth of ideas for projects and theses. Thus there is no ex-cathedra pronouncement on idiotype networks and their relevance to immune regulation; the reader can agonise over this along with the participants. Nor is there bland optimism about the future of therapeutic immunomanipulation; the extent of its promise and fulfilment is there for anyone to judge. The references are challenging, but not comprehensive. This selectivity reflects the spirit of the book.

AM DENMAN

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.

Lung Pathology Course

A course on lung pathology will be held at the Brompton Hospital, London, 18-20 June 1988.

Further details may be obtained from: The Postgraduate Secretary, Cardiothoracic Institute, London SW3 6HP (01-351 8003)

Conduction system and nerves of the heart life and death: a clinicopathological update

University of Milan, May 30-June 1, 1988

There will be three sessions: conduction system and nerves of the heart in the anatomoclinical setting; clinicopathological features of arrhythmias; clinicopathological features of sudden cardiac death.

Further details from: Drs Lino Rossi Luigi Matturri, Istituto di Anatomia e Istologia Patologica, Università di Milano Via della commenda, 19, 20122 Milano Italy.

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