

## Book reviews

**AIDS epidemic.** In fact, any non-specialist reader who wishes to delve further into the current status of HIV infection as a continuing transfusion problem will value the up to date and well written coverage in this book. The book is obviously primarily addressed to blood transfusion specialists but it should also be a useful addition to general medical library shelves.

JAF NAPIER

**Clinical Immunodermatology.** 2nd ed. Mark V Dahl. (Pp 422; £37.50.) Year Book Medical Publishers. 1988. ISBN 0-8151-2247-0.

This excellent second edition deserves a place on the bookshelf of all people with an interest in dermatopathology. It provides a very comprehensive and clearly written account of the immunopathology of skin diseases. For those who have been somewhat left behind by advances in immunology, the earlier chapters deal very thoroughly with the basic mechanisms of the immune response and contain an overview of the mediators of inflammation. Much use is made of helpful diagrams and each chapter commences with a useful glossary. The rest of the text is devoted to dermatoses in which the immune system or abnormalities of it play a large part in pathogenesis including the bullous dermatoses, connective tissue disorders, psoriasis, lichen planus, and the vasculitides. The book is well referenced. Despite the slight criticism of the rather limited use of photographs this textbook is highly recommended and is excellent value for money.

PH MCKEE

**Cerebrospinal Fluid and The Brain Edemas.** TH Milhorat. (Pp 168; \$45.00 USA; \$55.00 overseas.) Neuroscience Society of New York. 1987. ISBN 0-944809-00-6.

Over the past few centuries our knowledge of cerebrospinal fluid dynamics has advanced considerably from the simple concept of an inert fluid cushioning the brain to one of an independent complex circulation with an array of finely regulated functions. After a short historical perspective, the monograph deals with the different mechanisms of brain oedema, which are discussed rationally against a background of sections dealing with cerebrospinal fluid anatomy and physiology. The interstitial oedemas in par-

ticular are emphasised and there is a short and useful account of the rationale of current management. Footnotes frequently provide optional reading. There are good reference lists. The text is clear, concise, and well written and complemented by a number of excellent diagrams, photomicrographs, and CT and MRI scan reproductions. This work constitutes a novel approach to the understanding of the pathophysiology of the brain oedemas. I have little hesitation in recommending the monograph to anyone seeking a clear perspective of the subject.

S VARIEND

**Moulds and Health. Who is at Risk?** Y Al-Doory, S Ramsey. (Pp 254; \$37.50.) Charles C Thomas. 1987. ISBN 0-398-05365-0.

This well produced book was written by the unusual combination of an associate professor from a department of pathology in Washington DC, and an assistant professor of journalism and mass communications in Kansas. It is dedicated to "all compromised patients" and aimed at North Americans who wish to learn about fungi, how exposure to them might affect their health, and what they can do about it. The American journalistic style produces some unusual sentences but makes the book easy to understand. Use of colour photography would have made a big improvement. After the Introduction there are six parts: moulds and yeasts, health, mycotic diseases, fungal allergy, the patient, and risk treatment and prevention. Early chapters would only interest those with no knowledge of biology but later chapters contain a lot of useful information. Nevertheless, I cannot recommend the book to readers of this journal.

RN PEEL

## 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.

**Diseases of Bones and Joints.** Proceedings of the 51st Annual Anatomic Pathology Slide Seminar of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. RE Fechner, HJ Spjut. (Pp 147; soft cover \$34.) Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0-89189-221-4.

## Notices

## Clinical Laboratory Molecular Analysis

February 8-10, 1989

San Diego Princess Resort, San Diego, CA, USA

The eleventh annual conference on clinical laboratory immunochemical and molecular assays is designed for pathologists, technologists, clinical chemists, microbiologists, and other medical laboratory personnel.

Presentations showing the recent research developments in the pathogenesis and aetiology of disease processes, new technology, and future directions in clinical laboratory assays will be offered by a distinguished faculty of renowned scientists.

For further information contact: Bonny Mower, Department of Academic Affairs, Box 400S, Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA, 92037, USA.

## Announcement

The Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology

San Francisco Hilton, San Francisco, USA

Sunday March 5 to March 10, 1989

Scientific papers, poster sessions, 13 specialty conferences, and 49 short courses are scheduled. Two special courses will be offered: molecular biology with Drs Cecilia Fenoglio-Preiser and Cheryl Willman; and flow cytometry with Drs Ronald Weinstein and John S Coon.

Further information about the meeting and courses may be obtained from Dr Nathan Kaufman, Secretary-Treasurer, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, 3643 Walton Way Extension, Augusta, GA 30909, USA.