

tests described are "rather older ones," but some are downright obsolete and the reasons for their inclusion are not clear.

It is also disappointing that the guides to interpretation of the tests are mainly qualitative. Details of performance, such as specificity, sensitivity, or predictive value, have not been included. Not only must tests be done properly; it is equally as important that the right test is done, for example, three tests of exocrine pancreatic function are described but there are no details of their relative or absolute performance in diagnosing chronic pancreatic insufficiency. £30.00 is a high price to pay for a book which adds little to existing publications.

WJ MARSHALL

**The Microbiological Hazards of Occupations.** CH Collins, JM Grange. Occupational Hygiene Monograph No 17. (Pp 38; paperback 16.). Science Reviews Ltd. 1990. ISBN 0-905927-23-0.

According to the publisher's insert note, this handy size book is based on a course at the Robens Institute at Surrey University for candidates sitting the examination in the microbiological hazards of occupations, set by the British Examining and Registration Board in Occupational Hygiene. The publishers feel it "will be of great interest to occupational nurses, environmental health staff and others working in or otherwise associated with this field of potential hazard".

The reader progresses logically through micro-organisms and their identification, host defences, sources and routes of infection, job associated infections, microbiological safety, techniques, and monitoring hazards. Chapters on food poisoning, controlled environments, as well as biotechnology (including genetic hazards) and legislation, make this a comprehensive treatment. Within each chapter there is a helpful and systematic approach to topics under subheadings. The line diagram figures are a model of clarity and information.

This admirable little book condenses a large amount of information in an easily assimilable form and faithfully fulfils the title. The authors have identified a need in the market and have successfully provided a valuable book for their intended readership, which will include laboratory workers.

C ROBERTS

**Surgical Pathology of Non-Neoplastic Lung Disease.** 2nd ed. Major Problems in Pathology. Vol 13. ALA Katzenstein, FB Askin. (Pp 603; £50.) Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Ltd. 1990. ISBN 0-7216-1852-9.

The first edition of this work became an accepted and even essential part of the bench book collection in many diagnostic histopathology laboratories. This edition is 163 pages longer and contains new chapters by Jeffrey Myers on drug induced lung disease on primary lymphoid disorders, and of course the obligatory chapter on AIDS. Elsewhere there has been revision, particularly in the early sections, on acute lung injury and interstitial pneumonia.

There is much essential and useful information here but it often requires careful

searching to find it. Americans are said to prefer large and weighty volumes and this tends to encourage prolixity in much of their medical writing. This book is no exception. Much of the discussion is diffuse and although there are numerous references, including 1500 new ones, there is little or no attempt at critical assessment. Perhaps this is inevitable when the authors are primarily concerned with what a lesion is, rather than with why it has occurred. The publishers cannot escape criticism for the poor quality of some of the illustrations and for a certain eccentricity in their arrangement. Thus the first figures encountered are on plate II and relate to chapters 10 and 12 and these are followed by plate 1 relating to chapters 3, 5, and 8. Many of the black and white photomicrographs are given a whole page when they only occupy half the area thus leaving many blank spaces and adding to the bulk of the book. In spite of these drawbacks this is likely to remain a useful diagnostic text until a more concise and clearly illustrated work appears.

MS DUNNILL

## NOTICES

### British Society for Dermatopathology

Winter Meeting,  
Friday February 8  
Postgraduate Medical Centre,  
The Royal Surrey County Hospital,  
Guildford.

The main theme of the meeting will be "disorders of the pigmentary system". Professor Martin Mihm from Harvard, Rona MacKie, and Stanley Bleehen will talk on "precursor lesions of melanoma", "difficult pigmented lesions in children", and "non-neoplastic pigmentary conditions", respectively.

There will also be a session of free papers and a slide seminar, neither of which will be confined to melanocytic problems.

The registration fee is £50.00.

For further details please contact Dr Martin Cook, Department of Histopathology, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. Telephone number 0483 571122 Extension 4257

### 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 Orrell, Department of Pathology, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Road, Lancaster. Tel: 0524 65944 X 2701.

### Clinical Laboratory Molecular Analysis

February 13-15, 1991

Hyatt Regency Hotel, La Jolla,  
California, USA

This, the thirteenth 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. Fee \$375.00.

For further information, contact: Laurie J. Jones, Department of Academic Affairs, Box 400S Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037. Telephone: (619) 554-9592

### Methods of Immunologic Research and Diagnosis

An at-the-bench laboratory training program

The Ernest Witelsky Center  
for Immunology,  
University at Buffalo,  
State University of New York  
2-14 June 1991.

Daily practical laboratory exercises personally carried out by participants, accompanied by lectures, demonstrations and discussions.

Contact James F Mohn, MD, Director, The Ernest Witelsky Center for Immunology, 234 Sherman Hall, Buffalo, New York 14214. Telephone: 716 831-2848 or 831-2901, FAX: 716 831-3395.

Inquiries should be received by 15 March 1991 to insure consideration for acceptance.

### Register of primary immune deficiencies

In line with other European countries, a Register of all patients in the United Kingdom with primary immune deficiencies is being compiled. This is being organised by Dr J Gooi (Immunology Department, Blood Transfusion Service, Bridle Path, Leeds LS15 7TW).

To gain complete coverage we should be grateful if any physicians or general practitioners, who have not already been contacted and who are currently managing such patients, could send details of their patients to Dr Gooi.

Registration forms are available from Dr J Gooi (0532 645091) or Dr H Chapel (0865 817305, Immunology Department, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU).