or contact. Typical slender, tapering Gram negative bacilli have been reported in buffy coat preparations of 12 of 13 such cases in which staining was attempted. In two cases of overwhelming *C canimorsus* septicaemia whole blood smears were reported positive.\(^{14}\)

A further case, in a 36 year old man without a spleen, presented 30 hours after a trivial dog bite, with purpuric fulminans and disseminated intracutaneous coagulation. The history of dog bite, asplenia, and Gram negative intracellular rods present in the whole blood smear immediately suggested the diagnosis and led to a change from the ini-

Gram negative septicaemias generally respond to aminoglycoside treatment, but *C canimorsus* infections do not. The anti-

microbial agents of choice for such infections are penicillin or ciprofloxacin.

M MORGAN
Public Health Laboratory Service, Church's Lane, Heanor, Essex EX2 5AD

I was slightly surprised that there was virtually no mention of the epidemiology of appendicitis, in particular, recent work sug-

gesting an infectious origin. However, the book is a goldmine of information and makes fascinating reading. I would thor-

oughly recommend it to any pathologist with an interest in gastrointestinal pathol-

ogy, gastroenterologist, or surgeon with an interest in gastrointestinal diseases.

CLAIR DU BOULAY


Large text books, often in more than one volume, which try and include all there is to know about a subject, are often intimidating. However, this book proves that a comprehensive, relatively small book, is possible. I was thoroughly enjoying the book. I knew that I would have to stop, as there were useful chapters on some of the most common conditions.

The references are comprehensive and reasonably up to date but do not seem to be very selective and look as if they have come straight off a computer; I would have pre-
ferred some identification of what the authors consider key articles.

Some new titles


I wish to declare an interest in this subject and believe that the book is a useful and comprehensive reference.

DH MELCHER

9TE.

Fife A, Hill D, Barton C, Burden P. Gram negative septicaemia diagnosed on periph-


Kulling Bj, Westendorp RJG, Van Wouw JW, Meinders AE. Purpura fulminans and symmetrical gangrene caused by cappocy-

tophaga canimorsus (formerly DF-2) septi-


Ndon JA. Capnocytophaga canimorsus septi-

caemia caused by a dog bite in a haemolytic cell anaemia. Fam Pract 1993;10:

211-3.


This attractive, slim, yellow volume has been written by a pathologist and a surgeon. It attempts to pull together the underlying pathological processes and subsequent clini-

cal presentation and treatment of diseases of the appendix. I thoroughly enjoyed read-

ing about all aspects of the appendix: its anatomy and pathology, and the manage-

ment of its diseases. The diagrams are clear and the photomicrographs are excellent.

This book is a must for all those who are interested in this subject. I have enjoyed reading it and believe that it is a useful and comprehensive reference.

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