**Cancer and Workplace Chemicals. JH Duffus. HHSC Handbook No 17. (Pp 75 i+8 tables; £15.00.) 1995. ISBN 0-948237-26-0.**

This is a small, short book with a spring binding that fits comfortably into a lab coat pocket. It reviews “current thinking relating to the role of workplace chemicals in causing cancer and how it relates to the regulation . . . (of) carcinogens (in the workplace”). Its layout is easy to follow and the text is easy to read. Large print ensures that all details relating to numerous lengthy and important objectives are readily appreciated. There is a good list of references and a workmanlike, but not exhaustive, glossary of terms relating to carcinogenesis. The tables given are similarly clearly presented and easy to follow. This clarity of style ensures that the book can be used for quick reference. It suffers from not listing the chemicals covered in a glossary or all of them in its index.

Probably because of its small size, the text is quite general when describing mechanisms of carcinogenesis but nevertheless is nicely informative for undergraduates or for just dipping into. The section on classification of carcinogens is worth reading if only to remind oneself of the problems in this area and national differences.

The heart of the book is the coverage of the legislation controlling the use of carcinogens and related substances. Many of these issues are well known but their many relevant regulations should be an attraction to health and safety officers and staff likely to handle them. If for no other reason this book should find a ready use for identifying, and cross checking what is a complex area of essential regulatory control for occupational risks. Its clarity and good general coverage of an important area in health and safety are also worth considering.

**D A WINFIELD**


The 22 chapters of the book are guidelines on a variety of haematological topics prepared by the Task Force of the British Committee for Standards in Haematology which itself is a subcommittee of the British Society for Haematology. As the membership of the various task forces consists of the leading authorities in Britain in their respective subbranches of haematology, this book can be considered to reflect current thinking and practice in this area. Edited by G. D. N. and cross checked by K. Wood. It is a compact guide for the trainee haematologist and for the clinician. Edited by K. D. N. and crosschecked by K. Wood. It is a compact guide for the trainee haematologist and for the clinician.

**B RUSHTON**


The eye is often described as a window on the world, but it is also a window on the body and in AIDS allows the ophthalmologist to see many of the processes which characterise the immunodeficiency related disorders of HIV infection. The book starts with a good review section and although most readers would have to be seriously out of date to have missed most of this elsewhere. The chapter on public health concerns is in fact about precautions to prevent transmission by ophthalmic procedures. The oculair manifestations of AIDS are covered by anatomical location rather than by disease or process. This has led to some duplication, but the three authors have divided the problems well between the chapters, so this is not too noticeable. The final chapter on systemic manifestations might be needed by some ophthalmologists whose clinical area is generally held in gloomy conditions guaranteed to dilate the pupils, but not very good for dermatology!

A considerable number of histopathology photographs are included, and most of these are of high quality although in some a colour balance could be improved. Atlas textbooks are usually expensive for their size because of the need for high reproduction quality. This book is no exception, but the illustrations are generally very good—not better than some pathology atlases either.

**I A CREE**


This is the most recent in an excellent series of books which have come out more or less annually and is virtually on the subject. The author(s) are recognized but do reflect current concerns. All the authors are senior and well respected in their fields. The reviews are excellent. Kuchner and Gibson (Boston) set off with foot infections in diabetes and they are responsive and aggressive, curative surgery is important. The clinical subjects covered also include splicen abscess (a change in predominant pathogens in recent years), human herpes virus 6 (MRSA), and Rochalimaea spp infections. This genus has now been included in Bartonella. Of the antimicrobial subjects, there are reviews of automation of antibiotic sensitivity testing, new macrolides, cytokine therapy (not much here except for rather specialist applications such as interferon for hepatitases and CSFs for neurotrophins), and intelligent dosing with rifampicin and other antimicrobials, much of which is about immune modulators, quite general. A safe and efficient haematology service. With the increasing trend for hospital managers to look toward market forces with their emphasis on costs, it is imperative that work of high quality as reflected in these guidelines remains the prime objective of all grades of staff who work in haematology and this book, in conjunction with its companion volume, provides a sound basis for achieving this ideal.

**D A WINFIELD**


Diagnostic Bacteriology Protocols is the 36th in the series of Methods in Molecular Biology. The aim is to persuade to write a chapter presenting a broad range of techniques for detecting, identifying and differentiating bacterial cell components. The protocols are intended to be easy to follow and “guaranteed to produce reproducible results”. It is a good bedside read and if you are setting off to research one of the topics, each chapter provides a reasonable list of references (but virtually none more recently from 1992) which will act as a respectable starting point for a literature search.

**G M SCOTT**