BOOKS RECEIVED

Cell separation—methods and selected applications

Edited by T. G. PRETLOW and THERESA P. PRETLOW. 1984. Vol. 3. Academic Press Inc., Orlando, Florida. Pp. xvi and 317. £33.50.

This book is the third volume in a series concerned with cell separation methods. The editors have been concerned for many years with the application and development of physical methods for cell separation and their preface illustrates a familiar problem. A review that they prepared in 1974 had 500 references, a figure that increased dramatically to over 7000 by 1978 and continues to increase exponentially. The series therefore adopted a different approach by inviting contributions from individuals with experience of specialised fields. Earlier volumes considered the isolation of blood cells, cells from solid tumours, kidney glomeruli and many other sites. Volume 3 is an equally mixed bag and covers isolation of cells by physical methods, e.g., of malignant lymphocytes by countercurrent distribution, electrophoretic migration of macrophages and a computer-controlled electrophoresis microscope. Other sections deal with enzymatic disaggregation of tissues, separation by lectin binding and separation using immunospecific microspheres. Biological methods using tissue culture and selective media are also described. The series provides useful source books for anyone trying to establish a particular method for separating a specific cell type, but having done this most of us are not likely to need it again. Libraries should have it but in the average laboratory it is likely to collect dust once the original chapter has been consulted.

L. M. FRANKS

Antibiotic associated diarrhoea and colitis

Edited by S. P. BORRIELLO. 1984. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, The Hague. Pp. viii and 179. £24.25.

The field of clinical diarrhoea associated with antibiotic therapy has become a major growth point in the past 7 years. The publication of this book is therefore very timely and serves as an excellent summary of the state of the art. The book is multiauthor and is edited by an expert microbiologist in the field. The subjects taken by each author range from epidemiological to detailed membrane biochemistry. Thus, the book is well suited to the infectious disease clinician, microbiologist and cell biologist. The lack of uniformity of type face is a minor distraction from the scientific content of the book. I strongly recommend this book as essential reading to specialists in the field and to routine microbiology units.

G. E. GRIFFIN

Principles of bacteriology, virology and immunity (Topley and Wilson)

Edited by F. BROWN and SIR GRAHAM WILSON. Vol. 4 (Virology). 1984, 7th ed. Pp. 610. £72.00.

To review any part of the new 7th edition of 'Topley and Wilson' is an awesome task. Few books in the field of medical science have attained the stature and reputation of 'Topley and Wilson' which remains the pre-eminent British postgraduate textbook of microbiology after 55 years of publication. The achievement of Sir Graham Wilson as the major author and editor since the work's inception is unique, and those of us who have read, reread and constantly referred to it over many years owe him a debt of gratitude, and are fulsome in our admiration.

The new enlarged edition is in four volumes, of which volume 4 is an entirely new textbook of medical virology that can be read and used independently of the other volumes. In spite of the