(chapter 10) would have benefited from mentioning its implication in cocarcinogenesis in bovine enteric carcinomas. The critical approach applied by the author in these chapters was refreshing and beneficial for the non-specialist reader trying to find a way through a wealth of information. Particularly interesting are the discussions on saponins as immunostimulators and components of immunostimulatory complexes ('iscoms'), and the antiviral activity of cardiac glycosides (chapter 11).

In chapter 15, the antiviral evaluation of crude plant extracts is discussed. Most crude extracts are poorly characterised and data from different laboratories, or the same laboratory at different times, are difficult to compare. However, there is the potential of finding antiviral compounds in many of these extracts. This is also reflected in a longstanding but ill understood use of plant extracts against hepatitis B in traditional Indian and Chinese medicine.

In summary, despite some shortcuts in the introductory chapters, I regard this as a very useful and timely book and have read it with increasing interest. We are very much at the beginning of extensive use of antiviral agents, and for many chronic viral diseases against which vaccines have either failed or are not available yet, treatment with such compounds is, or will be, an important branch of medical care. Despite its specialised nature, the book should find many readers beyond the ones closely involved professionally, such as botanists, chemists and virologists.

U. DESSELBERGER

A Colour Atlas of Virology

J. VERSTEEG. 1985 [ISBN 0723416664 Limp Edition 1990]. Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, London. Pp 240. £29.50.

A picture book is always more welcome than a text, especially on a subject as practically orientated as virology. This is a paperback edition of an already established atlas in the Wolfe Medical Atlas series. The author intends it as "a visual introduction to diagnostic virology for those who have to learn the laboratory procedures—microbiologists and pathologists in training, students of medicine, veterinary medicine, medical technology and biological sciences". The pictures and photomicrographs are well chosen and the captions succinct. The atlas includes chapters on diagnostic methods, use of experimental animals and cell culture techniques, cytopathic effect, histopathology of viral infections, and serological tests. While there is no substitute for actually doing the practical work, as someone who has recently taken the Membership Examination of the Royal College of Pathologists, I would wholeheartedly recommend this book to trainee pathologists, physicians and laboratory scientific officers. The only reservation I have is the large amount of space given to the section on the use of experimental animals. This might give the wrong impression to some of the wide readership this book is intended for; as the author points out "from an ethical standpoint as well as for financial reasons, the use of experimental animals must be restricted to the absolutely necessary".

A. R. GHOSE