BOOKS RECEIVED

Microbes and Man, 3rd edition

Edited by J. POSTGATE. 1992. ISBN 0-521-42355-4. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 320. £7.95.

The latest edition of this well established book will confirm its position as a modern classic. It is written in an engaging personal style, which instantly draws the reader into the author's enthusiasm and love for the subject. For a relatively short book, it succeeds in encompassing the nature of microbes in their diverse roles in the human world. It will open the eyes of many to the integral part microbes play in our lives and the respect which they rightly deserve.

It is a general introduction to microbiology for the non-specialist, but it will also appeal to the professionals. The book is topical and up-to-date with current issues and controversies in health and the environment, and includes chapters on genetic engineering, AIDS and pollution. The informative glossary and a section suggesting further reading will help those wishing to delve further into the subject. The book is very readable and would be valuable to all students of microbiology, from school to university and beyond, or to those generally interested in science and man.

P. P. DE

Pharmaceutical Microbiology, 5th edition

Edited by W. B. HUGO and A. D. RUSSELL. 1993. ISBN 0-632-03428-9. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. Pp. 524. £29.50.

A compendium such as *Pharmaceutical microbiology* is invaluable to both pharmacists and microbiologists who need to appreciate each other's areas of expertise.

The book comprises 25 chapters, arranged into three parts. Part 1 has four chapters addressing the biology of different micro-organisms and also the principles of pathogenicity and epidemiology. Part 2 is the bulk of the book, consisting of 12 chapters covering the actions and uses of antimicrobial agents, including antibiotics, disinfectants and immunological agents. Part 3, entitled microbiological aspects of pharmaceutical processing, contains nine chapters on topics relating to the practical and developmental needs of the applied science. As a pharmacist I found this part the most relevant and interesting.

The galaxy of multidisciplinary talent that has contributed is most impressive. Interestingly, the authors are the same as for the fourth edition, published in 1987, and some now appear to be working a little away from the "cutting edge".

The strength of this textbook is to juxtapose topics that are probably covered well elsewhere, for example, types of antibiotics, with less popular but related topics such as their manufacture and evaluation. This style is valuable to the reader as it ensures that each topic is seen in a meaningful context rather than in isolation.

The update has been more extensive in some chapters than others. Probably the most useful additional material is in

Chapter 18, which addresses microbial spoilage. Six pages have been given over to the current "god", quality assurance, which as a term does not even appear in the index of the fourth edition.

The soft-cover publishing is appropriate for its likely intensity of use and both the print and diagrams are of excellent quality. Disappointingly, there are only three photographs which are not greatly illuminating, indeed one shows less detail than in the previous edition.

In conclusion, this is a well produced and well integrated textbook that meets its intended purpose. I would recommend it to both students and practitioners of pharmaceutical microbiology.

S. POTTER

Candidiasis. Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Treatment, 2nd edition

Edited by G. P. BODEY. 1983. ISBN 0-88167-954-2. Raven Press, New York. Pp. 419. \$119.00.

This multi-author book reviews the pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of candidiasis. The first chapter deals with the classification of candida in detail and explains the current nomenclature. The next two chapters describe the patterns of disease associated with candida in patients as well as in experimental animals. The various infections are well illustrated, although colour prints would have been preferable. A useful section on the histopathological differential diagnosis of deep-seated fungal infections and the association of candida with different organ systems are included. A further chapter describes, in detail, pathogenesis, including host-resistance and pre-disposing factors. The mechanisms of adherence and invasion by candida, together with the host immune response, are reviewed. Epidemiology of candida infections, describing the possible source from food and the relationship to the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics is presented subsequently.

The current laboratory methods for the identification of candida, together with recent experimental advances in antigen purification, monoclonal antibody production and polymerase chain reaction methodologies are outlined in the next section. The remaining part of the book deals in detail with the various clinical manifestations of candida infection. There is a useful section on the radiological features of candida infection, which has some excellent radiographs. The chapter on haematogenous and major organ candidiasis also gives a comprehensive viewpoint of this important area. The final section clearly defines the properties and clinical uses of antifungal agents available for topical and systemic infections.

Overall, this book provides an excellent review of candida, ranging from basic biology and classification to laboratory diagnosis, clinical manifestations and therapy. It should be of value to clinical microbiologists, as well as those workers interested in the fundamental aspects of this fascinating group of organisms.

T. S. J. ELLIOTT