BOOKS RECEIVED

Fungal Infection. Diagnosis and Management

M. D. RICHARDSON and D. W. WARNOCK. 1993. ISBN 0-630-03514-5. Blackwell Scientific Publications. Pp. 207. £18.50.

In the preface the authors state that they "have attempted to provide a succinct account of the clinical manifestations, laboratory diagnosis and management of fungal infections" and "have designed the book to facilitate the rapid information retrieval". They have achieved both these aims admirably and produced a book that covers superficial, subcutaneous and systemic infections clearly and concisely. The major triumph of this book is in the management of opportunist infections where the authors have tackled many controversial areas, such as the duration of empirical antifungal treatment, prophylactic treatment, dosing regimens and laboratory monitoring, to give practical and up to date information. The section on antifungal drugs is excellent and covers the newer triazoles comprehensively. The bibliography contains references from 1992.

In a book of only 207 pages one would expect some omissions, however these are surprisingly few; fusarium infections are not mentioned but this is a very minor criticism. There are no illustrations but this is to be expected in a specialist book costing under £20.00. Numerous atlases are available that could be used as an adjunct to this book.

The layout of the book with chapters divided by numerous subheadings encourages browsing and I found it difficult to put down once I had started reading it. I would recommend this book to all microbiologists and clinicians regularly dealing with patients suffering from fungal infections.

R. BARNES

Human Virology

L. COLLIER and J. OXFORD. 1993. ISBN 0-19-261662-5. Oxford University Press. Pp. 398. £18.50.

This book is subtitled "A text for students of medicine, dentistry and microbiology" and the preface states that it is not a comprehensive treatise on virology but rather a presentation of this ever expanding subject on a "need to know" basis. It is aimed at two groups: medical and dental undergraduates who throughout their chosen careers will have to be ever aware of viruses and their associated problems, and non-clinical microbiology students who need to know some virology as part of their basic training.

The book is divided into 26 chapters in four sections; general principles, specific infections, special syndromes, practical aspects plus appendices. Each chapter is further divided into numbered sections and sub-sections enabling the reader to concentrate on specific points as required. The final section of each chapter is entitled "Reminders", listing all the salient points contained in each; these "Reminders" should prove excellent aids to revision.

The book is very well illustrated and the only adjective for

the many electronmicrographs is "superb" (I doubt if one will see better). Most of the excellent figures and tables are self-explanatory and easily understood. However, when relating table with text, these were often on separate pages or even "overleaf". Included in the figures are several micrographs of tissue sections but these are of limited value as they are in monochrome, not colour.

The specialised aspects of a book of this nature may be approached systematically by virus type or clinical syndrome. Here the authors have used a mixed approach; some chapters are virus orientated, e.g., orthomyxoviruses, lyssavirus (an excellent balanced review) or herpesviruses, whereas others, such as those on gastro-enteritis, hepatitis viruses or intra-uterine infections, deal with the diseases and encompass various viruses. In some instances this may be annoying to readers; for example, postnatal rubella is given a separate chapter whereas congenital rubella is included with intra-uterine infections, seven chapters later.

The main disappointment is the section on "Practical Aspects". The chapters on immunisation and chemotherapy repeat much data presented previously, while the one on laboratory diagnosis would have been improved by more attention to the interface between patient and laboratory, enlarging on the correct specimens to send and interpretation of results. The principles of laboratory tests are described only very briefly.

The book list for further reading in the appendices is adequate except for "laboratory aspects"; only two obscure works and none of the many standard texts are cited.

Some errors were noted, but these were few in number; for example, the transposition of IgM and IgA diagrams in one of the tables and the claim that Cendehill rubella vaccine is still used in the UK. Equally surprising is the contention in one particular table that gastro-enteritis viruses are of "high prevalence" in developing but not developed countries!

Despite these minor criticisms the authors have, on the whole, managed to present a very large topic in a condensed, "need to know", format. By today's standards this book is reasonably priced at £18.50 and it should be of value to medical, dental and microbiology undergraduates and possibly post-graduate students on broad-based courses leading to higher degrees. For greatest benefit, it should be read in conjunction with a structured course of formal lectures. Its value to the specialist virologist is limited but it will be useful for in-service training of junior staff, for refreshing one's memory and as an excellent source of tables and figures for teaching purposes.

A. S. BRYDEN

ERRATUM

Jarløv JO, Rosdahl VT, Yeo M, Marples RR Lectin typing of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* from Singapore, England and Wales, and Denmark. *J Med Microbiol* 1993; 39: 305–309.

Summary line 11; Results p. 308, col. 2, MRSA from England and Wales, line 7; Discussion p. 309, col 2, line 1. In each case, the number of lectin types determined was eight (as shown in table V, p. 308), not nine as originally printed.