successful because the authors of the six sections have different views on where the cut-off should be between *do-it-yourself* and *send-it-to-a-reference-laboratory*. Another indication of minimal collaboration between authors is that the Bauer-Kirby method of antibiotic-susceptibility testing is described in similar detail by two of them in immediately adjacent chapters.

ROBERT BLOWERS

Advances in the biosciences, volume 12: Schering symposium on immunopathology

Edited by G. RASPE. 1974. Braunschweig: Pergamon Press. Pp. x and 705. DM115.

This is the published report of an international symposium on immunopathology, held in Yugoslavia in 1973. The first part of the meeting was on some basic immunological problems, such as immunoglobulin receptors and antigen recognition in lymphocytes, mechanisms of cell-mediated lysis of target cells, the interrelationships of complement activation and the blood coagulation pathways and amyloid.

The second part of the symposium was on immunopathological aspects of infectious disease. Indeed, it was the first international meeting at which this important subject was discussed at length. In addition to general reviews there were systematic considerations of animal models such as infections with lymphocytic-choriomeningitis virus in mice, where acute disease of the central nervous system is an immunopathological reaction mediated by T-lymphocytes and late glomerulonephritis is due to the accumulation of complexes of viral antigens and antibodies. The shock syndrome associated with dengue-virus infection in man was discussed by S. B. Halstead in relation to enhanced infection of leucocytes produced by antibody, and by V. A. Bokisch and colleagues in relation to complement activation. V. Houba and P. H. Lambert presented evidence that complexes of *Plasmodium malariae* antigen accumulate in the kidneys of Africans with a particular type of nephrotic syndrome. K. S. Warren and D. G. Colley outlined the role of cell-mediated immunity and eosinophils, respectively, in the immunopathological mechanisms which play such an important part in the pathogenesis of schistosomiasis.

Although this meeting was held more than 2 years ago, the text is still useful and most of the conclusions remain valid. The volume is well edited, with short printed discussions to each paper.

A. C. ALLISON

Medical microbiology. Volume two: the practice of medical microbiology

Edited by R. CRUICKSHANK, J. P. DUGUID, B. P. MARMION AND R. H. A. SWAIN. 12th ed., 1975. Edinburgh, London and New York: Churchill Livingstone. Pp x and 587. Hard cover, £11; soft cover, £7.50.

A criticism of the eleventh edition of Cruickshank's "Medical Microbiology", which appeared 10 years ago, was that it included a considerable amount of purely technical information of little interest to those not engaged in laboratory work. In order to correct this fault, the twelfth edition has been divided into two volumes, the first "aimed primarily at medical and science students and doctors" and the second, the subject of this review, "directed to professional and technical laboratory staff". There are now four editors and twice the previous number of contributors.

Part I of Volume Two is essentially Part V of the eleventh edition revised and brought up to date and is concerned with technical methods. It is an admirable account of apparatus and methods used in medical microbiology laboratories.

Part II of the volume concerns the identification of microbes and the diagnosis of specific infections, and should read, according to the editors, in conjunction with Volume One. It represents the praiseworthy attempt to separate technical matter from other matter in the book, but it has to be admitted that there are not a few signs of schism. For all the editors' attempts to avoid it, repetition is rife. This affects exclusively Volume Two, as Volume One