BOOKS RECEIVED

Hygiene for Spa Pools. Guidelines for their safe operation

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE. 1994. ISBN 0-901144-37-1. Public Health Laboratory Service Press & Publications. Pp. 72. £6.50 paperback.

This booklet, published by the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS), is the product of a special working party assembled to develop guidelines for the safe installation, maintenance and monitoring of spa pools. Representatives from the PHLS, the Department of Health, the Environmental Health sector and manufacturers formed the group.

“Jacuzzi” is a trade name for a particular type of spa pool of which a wide variety now exist. They are all designed to operate above ambient temperature and be used by relatively small numbers of people at any one time. They rely upon recirculation, filtration and chemical disinfection to maintain microbiological safety, and recommendations for hygiene control are welcome.

The book has sections on design of spas, medical considerations, pool water treatment, operation, training, maintenance and water monitoring. Appendices include addresses of organisations providing advice, together with summaries of maintenance checks and tasks, bacteriological standards and testing procedures. A specimen logsheet and trouble shooting guide of cause and remedy are helpful additions. The booklet is illustrated with photographs supplemented by a diagrammatic representation of a typical pool with associated equipment and water flow indication. The text is clear and the guidelines should be easy to follow.

As spa pools gain in popularity and increase in numbers and variety, the advice of microbiologists as to their care is likely to be sought more frequently. This practical guide is a very economical but valuable source of information to answer any questions on the subject.

D. E. HEALING

Current Clinical Topics in Infectious Diseases

Edited by J. S. REMINGTON and M. N. SWARTZ. 1994. ISBN 0-86542-359-8. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Boston. Pp. 296. £59.50.

This is the fourteenth volume of a series that is published annually and is intended to provide the reader with up to date information on topical aspects of infectious disease.

Written predominantly by American authors, this hardback book consists of fifteen chapters, mainly text with occasional useful tables and diagrams. Each chapter is well structured, providing background information, current knowledge and possible future developments on each topic and is referenced comprehensively. Subheadings direct the reader to relevant sections of the chapter. Topics reviewed include diabetic foot infections, splenic abscesses, malaria, chronic liver disease secondary to hepatitis C virus, human herpesvirus 6, bacillary angiomatosis and *Rochalimaea* species. Treatment and prevention of infectious diseases are addressed with reviews on azithromycin and clarithromycin, cytokine therapy and vaccine development. While some chapters concentrate on clinical syndromes from pathogenesis to treatment, other concentrate on pathogens and their discovery, structure, epidemiology and role in infectious disease.

This is a readable, well-presented book with up to date information on some important aspects of infectious disease. The cost will probably preclude purchase by the individual but it is to be recommended as a departmental reference book.

A. JOLLEY