The epidemiological information is biased towards the peculiar conditions in the United States with its unusually high proportion of drug addicts. In California, for example, 80–90% of all cases of hepatitis seen are in drug users. Nevertheless, this is an excellent book and, in the face of the vast and confusing literature that has accumulated in recent years, a welcome milestone not only for those immediately concerned with blood transfusion and its problems and hazards but for all who wish to keep abreast of an important frontier of medicine.

H. STERN

Fungal diseases of animals

By G. C. AINSWORTH and P. K. C. AUSTWICK. 1973. 2nd ed., revised by G. C. Ainsworth. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux. Pp. vi and 216. £2.50.

This is the second edition of a book first published in 1959. Fungus infections in animals have attracted surprisingly little attention, compared with the enormous increase of interest in human infections during the last few years. However, animal infections are important for several reasons. The chief are their high incidence and economic importance. Another is that animals are important reservoirs of infection for man—the ringworm infections spring to mind immediately, because cattle and domestic animals are possibly ineradicable sources of these. Another group of infections of which animals are important reservoirs is the actinomyces-nocardia complex, always a difficult group to study because of its complicated taxonomy.

There are also less obvious fungal hazards from animals. Coccidioidomycosis is widespread in cattle in California and no doubt cattle are an unrecognised reservoir of this disease in other countries in which it is endemic. Animals may also turn out to be important sources of human infection in African histoplasmosis, and indeed in other if not all the endemic mycotic infections of under-developed countries.

The book begins with a short historical introduction and a chapter on epidemiology. There follow seventeen chapters dealing in turn with each group of disorders, after which there are brief chapters on mycotoxicoses and allergic disorders, and a single page on methods which directs the reader to comprehensive tomes on the subject. There follows a bibliography of well over a thousand items, a list of scientific names of animal hosts, and an index. There are no illustrations.

As is to be expected from its source, this is a comprehensive, matter-of-fact, unassuming, and useful book, which confines itself to the essentials and has no frills. Any pathologist working seriously on fungus infections must possess a copy and will often use it.

H. I. WINNER

Handbuch der Desinfektion und Sterilisation

Edited by W. WEUFFEN. Vol. 1, "Grundlagen der Desinfektion". By W. HORN, M. PŘÍVORA, and W. WEUFFEN. 1972. Berlin, GDR: VEB Verlag Volk und Gesundheit.

Volume 1, entitled "Fundamentals of Disinfection", in the series "Treatise on Disinfection and Sterilisation" is the co-operative work of 22 authors from the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. The work deals in separate chapters with the disinfectant effects of ultrasonic waves and of ten different classes of chemical disinfectants. This is preceded by a general discussion of ecological matters, with a historical introduction, and a consideration of definitions, criteria and principles used in testing disinfectants. The individual chapters provide a wealth of information and reflect the experience of the selected team of specialists writing them. The literature cited is voluminous, but some of the references are misplaced.

Because disinfection occupied the minds of people right from the beginning of bacteriology, one might have thought that little new could be added to knowledge in this area. However, there are valuable recent developments. These include growing international activity in the standardisation of testing methods and of terminology, and attempts to promote a more rational use of disinfectants. This volume should prove of interest to specialists, because it summarises the studies and views on disinfection of research workers in Socialist countries.

H. SEELIGER

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