is complete in itself. For example, all the information on the properties of *Staphylococcus aureus* given in Volume One is repeated in the second volume, albeit in a more elaborate form, but if the laboratory worker wishes to know about the pathogenesis or epidemiology of staphylococcal infection, not included in this volume, he must sift through the account in the other to find it. In solving the problem of the non-technologists the editors have merely shifted it to other users of the book.

A further aim is to make Volume Two a "bench book". This has been largely successful, with sufficient information given for most procedures to be undertaken, or giving references to other authorities when it is not. It does not, however, give details on the routine processing of clinical samples but discusses them in the context of specific pathogens. As in all books of this type some subjects receive better treatment than others, and there are grounds for numerous minor disagreements. Why, for example, should a perfectly respectable group of mycobacteria continue to be labelled atypical? Why should α -haemolytic streptococci receive such scant attention in comparison with the enterococci? Why should not *Acinetobacter lwoffii* receive attention if *A. anitratus* does, and why is the latter not indexed? And, although one agrees with the suggestion that most fungi should be sent for identification to reference laboratories, why is there so little on the fungi—five pages, in contrast with 14 for mycoplasmas?

One final item that deserves comment, particularly as students often have difficulty with it, is the typographical inconsistency found in headings that include the names of microorganisms. Thus we have *PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA* (best, in my view) in chapter 5, *PSEUDOMONAS PYOCYANEA* (also correct, but inconsistent) in chapter 32, *PASTEURELLA MULTOCIDA* (inconsistent and incorrect) in chapter 35, yet *FRANCISELLA TULARENSIS* in the same chapter. One would not pretend that such variations in typography constitute a major problem, but they deserve correction when the opportunity arises.

In all, Volume Two of the new "Cruickshank" successfully completes what must have been the immense labour of a complete "rethink". Like the previous editions, the twelfth will find a secure place on the shelves of students, medical and technical, and of practising microbiologists.

IAN PHILLIPS

Pathogenic microorganisms from atypical clinical sources

Edited by A. VON GRAEVENITZ and T. SALL. 1975. Microorganisms and Infectious Diseases Series, vol. 1. New York: Marcel Dekker, Inc. Pp. xii and 229. US \$16.50.

This is a record of the proceedings of a conference held at Yale University School of Medicine. It includes 20 papers on a wide range of topics divided into five parts relating to isolations from the blood, the respiratory tract, the central nervous system, urine and miscellaneous sources. There are papers on bacteria, fungi and yeasts, rickettsiae, mycoplasmas and viruses.

Whilst there is no doubt that parts of this text will be of special interest to various workers concerned with opportunistic infection, the volume has many of the disappointing features associated with a rather unstructured collection of papers given at a conference.

This is the first of a series intended to give workers an opportunity to present their data and their own interpretations. The general standard of presentation is not good and I cannot recommend this book.

J. G. COLLEE

Effects of interferon on cells, viruses and the immune system

Edited by A. GERALDES. 1975. London: Academic Press Inc. Pp. xxiii and 661. £12.

The discovery of interferon by Isaacs and Lindenmann in 1957 raised great hopes that here at last was a substance that could successfully be used for the treatment of virus diseases. Some 20 years later, and in spite of intensive efforts, we sadly have to accept that these high