

postgraduate research will appreciate the lucid explanations and the hundred and one practical hints for carrying out these often frustrating techniques.

LORNA M WILLIAMSON

Optimal Use of the Clinical Laboratory. 5th International Meeting on Clinical Laboratory Organization and Management. Ed O Zinder. (Pp 140; £34.90.) Karger. 1986. ISBN 3-8055-4328-X.

The papers published in this book are concerned with three strands of thought in the management of clinical laboratories; the effective use of resources, manipulation of the results produced to give added value, and decentralised laboratory testing.

The subject matter and discussion presented in most of the papers will be of interest to anyone working in a clinical laboratory, but the price is such that only libraries will be able to afford it.

MG RINSLER

Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections. Ed RP Wenzel. (Pp 641; £56.) Williams and Wilkins. 1987. ISBN 0-683-8923-4.

In the 1980 PHLS survey of 18 000 hospital patients in England and Wales, 9.2% had hospital acquired (nosocomial) infection. Similar figures exist for Europe and USA. These infections not only lengthen hospital stay but are a known cause of increased mortality. The recent outbreaks at Stanley Royd and Stafford Hospitals serve as grim reminders. Cost factors are also important, and in these days of financial stringencies hospital managers are looking to the microbiologist to introduce effective control programmes which can prevent up to one third of nosocomial infections. A book which can help us review, organise, and supervise infection control procedures must be welcome. Professor Wenzel has gathered 32 of his colleagues to produce a volume which provides "state of the art information". To a large extent he succeeds. They cover all the parameters of nosocomial infection both general and specific, including a chapter on "Using the literature"; unfortunately most of this is American and there are notable British omissions. Nonetheless this book is recommended reading for everyone concerned with hospital infection.

RC SPENCER

Current Haematology and Oncology. Vol. 5. Ed Virgil F Fairbanks. (Pp 308; £62.) Wolfe Medical Publications Limited. 1987 ISBN 0-8151-3342-1.

The title of this now annual publication from the United States again raises the interesting question whether haematology and oncology can be combined together as a single specialty. Traditionally on this side of the Atlantic the answer is no, but might now be argued to be yes if enough clinicians would find the entire contents of the book helpful in terms of their routine practice. On that basis we can conclude that haematology—or whatever it might be called—is very nearly a specialty. Only one chapter (progress in therapy of small cell lung cancer) would not be of direct relevance to jobbing haematologists in the United Kingdom.

The rest is right on target—acute and chronic leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma, oncogenes in haematologic malignancy, the plasma coagulation system, and transfusion medicine (another specialty?). Everything is within two standard deviations of day to day practice; final MRCPPath candidates please note.

The text is readable, authoritative, as up to date as a book can be, and well referenced. While some of the topics covered are so frequently reviewed they now perhaps need a review of reviews, others are not, and there is a useful comment on non-A, non-B hepatitis, for instance, and also a gentle introduction to proteins C and S for those who, (like me) vaguely wonder what they are from time to time. Recommended if the departmental budget will stretch to it. Even the chapter on lung cancer is quite interesting. Radio-oncologists beware.

JS LILLEYMAN

Notices

ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr David Melcher, Histopathology Department, Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE.

"First Conference of the European Society for Chlamydia Research" Bologna, Italy, May 30–June 1 1988

Main topics: Epidemiology and preventive measures of chlamydial infections (*C trachomatis*, *C psittaci*) in Europe—biology-clinical manifestations and therapy—immunology and host-parasite interaction—diagnostic procedures—chlamydial genetics—vaccine development.

Please indicate interest in participation and preferred topic(s) by contacting: Dr Roberto Cevenini, Institute of Microbiology of the University of Bologna, S Orsola University Hospital, 9 via Massarenti, 40138, Bologna, Italy.

Dermatopathology Self-Assessment Workshop

A dermatopathology self-assessment workshop will be held at Guy's Hospital, London, April 22 and 23 1988. The course is for both pathologists and dermatologists and will cover a broad range of subjects. Participants will have an opportunity to study 100 unknown slides during two microscope sessions, followed by a formal discussion.

For further information please contact: Marion Ellis, Secretary to DM MacDonald, Dermatology Department, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RT.

This course is approved by the British Society of Dermatopathology.

British Journal of Haematology Research Trust Travelling Fellowships

Applications are invited from young haematologists of any discipline working in the United Kingdom for a travelling fellowship to allow them to attend a scientific meeting outside the United Kingdom which they consider to be important for their career development.

Applications will be considered half yearly and should be received by Professor A Jacobs, Department of Haematology, University of Wales College of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff CF44XW, not later than July 20 or January 1 in each year.