

BOOK REVIEWS

Immunobiology. Editors ROBERT A. GOOD and DAVID W. FISHER. *Sinauer Associates*, Stamford, Conn. USA. 1971.

Based on a series of articles contributed to *Hospital Practice*, this is an excellent introduction to the fascinating new developments in immunology. The text is simple and the illustrations very vivid. It is set in an easy to read type, and explanations are offered in simple language. Immunology has developed a large vocabulary of its own, and the authors are careful to explain each term explicitly. The contributors are leaders in their subspeciality areas and draw upon their own work as well as the literature to expound current thoughts. Chapters on the immunopathology of glomerulonephritis, the development of the immune system, immunosuppression and reconstitution, and complement stand out. It was depressing to read through descriptions of smallpox vaccination, gamma globulin and Rh disease; the reviews were incomplete and poorly worded.

As an introduction to the area of immunobiology, the text is promising and can be strongly recommended. For selected advanced reading, one has to look elsewhere.

R.K. CHANDRA

Immunological Diseases. Editor MAX SAMTER. *Little Brown and Company*, Boston, 1971.

This is the most comprehensive book on the subject. The name belies the fact that there is an excellent intro-

duction on basic immunology, covering antigens and the immune response, antigen-antibody interactions and their biochemical consequences. Disease states of every organ are dealt with, underscoring the role of immunopathologic processes as primary or secondary contributing factors. Atopic diseases and dermatologic manifestations are described clearly and extensively. It is difficult to single out one or more chapters for their excellence. As might be expected with 105 contributors, the quality varies considerably. By and large, the write ups are good and above average. It would be useful to include a chapter on interactions of nutrition and infection, an area of particular interest to the developing countries. The editing should be more strict, reducing verbose descriptions.

Professor Max Samter is to be congratulated on the improved second edition of the book which is more comprehensive than a comparative British text on the same subject.

R.K. CHANDRA

Pediatrics. Editor HENRY L. BARNETT, Co-editor ARNOLD H. EINHORN. *Appleton-Century-Crofts*, New York. 1972.

Professor Barnett has mobilized the efforts of several distinguished workers in child health to compile the new 15th edition of this text. It is a comprehensive book which covers perinatal medicine, growth and development, nutrition, genetics, metabolic errors, collagen diseases, infectious

diseases, accidents and poisoning, and system-wise description of pathophysiology, clinical features, diagnosis and management of common and rare disorders which may be encountered in pediatric practice. Pediatric subspecialties such as dermatology, otorhinolaryngology and ophthalmology are also included. A special chapter discusses general care of a well child, a sick child and their environment. The appendix lists normal ranges of biochemical and other values, and indices of growth. The index is effectively arranged.

The book would be of great value to all physicians who care for children, be they in training or fully qualified. The sections on infectious disease and nutrition are excellent and would be of

particular interest to workers in developing countries; however, there are two areas where the text would benefit from strengthening. One, a discussion on the interaction of infection and nutrition; second, more comprehensive coverage of childhood cirrhosis which is so very frequent in India and other Asian countries. Also, the chapter on immunology pales beside others; in an area where there have been such large and explosive advances, the write up is poor.

If these areas can be fortified, the textbook by Barnett would easily stand shoulders above the other contemporary books on the subject. It is recommended for all paediatricians and postgraduate students in India.

R.K. CHANDRA