Book reviews

but neither is it a handbook on experimental laboratory methods. The first section covers a range of topics from the function of the neuron and glia, microchemistry of human cerebral cortex, and clinical and tissue culture studies on demyelinating disorders to hereditary and viral ataxias in animals, and radiation injury to a group of three papers on Alzheimer's disease.

The second section is a symposium on geographic pathology. (Mariana Islands syndromes, kuru, hepatocerebral diseases in Japanese and West Indian neuropathy) and the third section is on special methods such as CSF examination, cerebral biopsy, histochemistry of nervous tissue and muscle, fluorescence and electron microscopy of the nervous system.

Some of the chapters make difficult reading but the book is worth its place in a library for those who can remember where they read such an assorted list.

J. A. SIMPSON

SYMPOSIA SERIES IN IMMUNOBIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION,
VOL. 11: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RUBELLA VACCINES

This publication presents the proceedings of the Symposium which was organized by the Permanent Section of Microbiological Standardisation and held in London in November, 1968. It affords an excellent survey of recent laboratory and clinical research, not only on rubella vaccines but also on all aspects of rubella infection. The main concern of the participants was maternal infection resulting in infection of the foetus in utero. This problem has raised many fascinating lines of research requiring active co-operation between clinicians, virologists, immunologists, and epidemiologists, and its world-wide interest was manifest by the high standard both of the papers presented in this Symposium and the discussion sessions.

The first session on epidemiology comprised papers from France, United States, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Israel, Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Teheran, and the United Kingdom. They showed that there was a striking similarity in the epidemiology of rubella in these countries. However, in Japan, rubella infection was apparently associated with a lower incidence of congenital defects than in the United States. A preliminary report from Cincinnati indicated that immune serum globulin with a high rubella antibody titre was effective in preventing infection when given within 24 hours of exposure to rubella; the protection afforded by increasing the time-interval between infection and administration of immune globulin was subsequently being studied.

The second session comprised papers giving up-to-date information on laboratory techniques. For serological diagnosis there were reports on a method for collection of blood on filter paper discs and comparison and interpretation of antibody studies by the various techniques of specific immunofluorescence, haemagglutination-inhibition, neutralization, complement-fixation, haemadsorption-inhibition, immunodiffusion, and platelet-aggregation. The influence of non-specific serum factors on neutralization tests was also described. Virus isolation studies included reports on the growth of rubella virus in various cell cultures and also on rubella virus interference. Comparison of the antigenic structures of American and Japanese strains and the results of experimental vertical transmission of these strains in rabbits was also reported.

The third session dealt primarily with the attenuation of rubella virus for vaccine production, and the final and fourth session presented 28 communications on clinical trials with various attenuated rubella vaccines. The protective efficacy of several of these vaccines was amply demonstrated and no evidence of virus spread to susceptible contacts was detected in any of these studies.

This book affords a valuable compendium on most aspects of recent work on rubella and should be consulted by anyone concerned with the details of prophylaxis or diagnosis of rubella infection.

CONSTANCE A. C. ROSS

SYMPOSIA SERIES IN IMMUNOBIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION,
VOL. 10: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIOLOGICAL ASSAY METHODS

This book contains the Proceedings of the 21st Symposium in Immunobiological Standardization, organized by J. R. R. Toothill on the topic of biological assay methods as applied to the production of vaccines. It consists of some 31 papers by an international group of experts, all, with the predictable exception of the French contributors, in English.

The contributors have stuck close to their last, and the papers deal with practical problems of experimental and, particularly, statistical control of potency in the production of vaccines for human use. For this reason, the book will have little appeal to the non-specialist. To the specialist, the papers are short, expert, and represent a valuable account of present techniques; the section on the statistical basis of quality control is particularly satisfactory, and a prominent feature is the attention given to experimental design so as to reduce the number of animals required for adequate analysis.

The book is produced by a litho-offset method. The final print size is small throughout, and the frequent use of even smaller print in the text makes for tiring reading. Some papers are particularly unfortunate—for example, the figures in the paper by Starke and Winkler, and the extensive reference tables in the paper by Toothill, Robinson, and Adams. Considering the content, format, and price, this book could be recommended only to someone working in this field.

J. S. GILLESPIE


This book is an account of one man's teaching, and for this reason alone would be noteworthy. The reader sits in a class of students through a year of neurological teaching, and each brief chapter narrates the weekly case presentations, with history, signs, diagnosis, and treatment. Many patients are presented, with disorders ranging from the commonplace to the rare. The style