

*pylobacter jejuni* from faeces? *J Clin Pathol* 1983;36:1350-2.

<sup>2</sup> Bolton FJ, Coates D, Hinchliffe PM, Robertson L. Comparison of selective media for the isolation of *Campylobacter jejuni/coli*. *J Clin Pathol* 1983;36:78-83.

<sup>3</sup> Bolton FJ, Robertson L. A selective medium for isolating *Campylobacter jejuni/coli*. *J Clin Pathol* 1982;35:462-7.

<sup>4</sup> Skirrow MB. *Campylobacter* enteritis: a "new" disease. *Br Med J* 1977;ii:9-11.

## Book Reviews

**Antibiotics for Surgical Infections.** PJ Sanderson. (Pp 262; £24.50.) John Wiley, 1983.

There is a wealth of reliable information and wise guidance in this potentially useful book. After a short introduction it begins with a 28 page survey of the more important and available antibiotics, then continues with chapters on their use (mainly therapeutic) in the various branches of surgery. The last chapter, on the choice of antibiotics and the assessment of new ones, is especially sound but might have been better combined with chapter 2 so that the general principles of antimicrobial therapy could be found all in one place. There is some advice on the prophylactic use of antibiotics in the various specialist chapters, but a general discussion of the principles of antibiotic prophylaxis would have been useful. There is a reference list at the end of each chapter but the inquiring reader will have difficulty in relating this to specific topics because there are no references in the text.

Rarely have I reviewed a book in which there was so little to fault in the scientific material; but rarely have I reviewed one of similar size that took me so long to read—because it was such hard reading. Essential material, for which a reader will long search without the help of a good index, is entangled in a tautological forest of awkward and unclear sentences that call for frequent rereading. If there is to be another edition of this book, and I hope that there is, skilled editing would reduce it to little more than half the present size without loss of facts but with great gain in clarity and accessibility of content.

ROBERT BLOWERS

**Gestational Trophoblastic Diseases.** Report of a WHO Scientific Group. WHO Technical Report Series 692. (Pp 81; paperback Sw fr 60.) World Health Organisation. 1983.

This slim paperback volume is part of the World Health Organisation Technical Report Series, and was produced by a committee of distinguished authorities including clinicians, epidemiologists, and pathologists. It is written in a clear, concise, and didactic style, and an enormous amount of useful information is contained in its 80 pages. The emphasis is mainly towards clinical aspects of trophoblastic disease, and discussion of the pathology, although comprehensive, is not surprisingly rather superficial. Nevertheless, this is an excellent report, right up to date, and with a good reference list. At just over £2 it represents tremendous value and I recommend every department which deals with gynaecological pathology to buy it.

CW ELSTON

## Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

**Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning.** BW Halstead in collaboration with EJ Schantz. WHO Offset Publication No 79. (Pp 60; Sw fr 6.) World Health Organisation. 1984.

**The Human Brain and Spinal Cord.** Functional Neuroanatomy and Dissection Guide. Lennart Heimer. (Pp 402; Soft cover DM 69.60; US\$ 27.00.) Springer. 1983.

**Fluid Dynamics as a Localizing Factor for Atherosclerosis.** Ed G Schettler, RM Nerem, H Schmid-Schönbein, H Mörl, C Diehm. The Proceedings of a Symposium held at Heidelberg, 1982. (Pp 230; DM 58; US\$22.50.) Springer. 1983.

**Copper and Lymphomas.** MJ Hrgovcic and CC Shullenberger. (Pp 251; \$95.50.) CRC Press Inc. 1984.

## Notice

**Supraregional assay service booklets—further copies**

The supraregional assay service (SAS) set up by the DHSS in January 1974 is still very active. Provided it receives the requests via consultants in pathology departments it undertakes certain difficult, infrequently requested assays free of charge. The repertoire is contained in the SAS booklet, which was sent to all those who are registered users of the SAS.

It has been decided to make copies of the SAS booklet available for educational purposes, and for information for those who are not registered users. However, any requests for SAS tests have to be made through the consultant or top grade scientist in charge of the laboratory, to whom results are initially sent. Requests should not be made directly by any other member of the NHS staff to the SAS.

Copies of the SAS booklet are available, and the cost is greatly reduced if a cheque is made payable to Westminster Medical School and sent direct with the order to: Professor JR Hobbs, Westminster Hospital, 17 Page Street, London SW1P 2AR.

They can be purchased as follows:

1 copy	.....	£7.00
2 copies	....	£12.00
3 copies	....	£17.00
4 copies	....	£22.00
5 copies	....	£27.00

This arrangement avoids the costs of further correspondence and invoicing. The booklets will be despatched direct to whoever sends the order with the cheque.

Those preparing for the MCB or MRCPath will find very useful guidelines in this booklet with regard to the investigation of patients.

## Correction

We apologise to Professor Bartl and his colleagues for the error which occurred in their paper in the March 1984 issue (p 233).<sup>1</sup>

Owing to a printer's error figure 2 appeared as a mirror image.

### Reference

<sup>1</sup> Bartl R, Frisch B, Burkhardt R, Jäger K, Pappenberger R, Hoffmann-Fezer G. Lymphoproliferations in the bone marrow. Identification and evolution, classification and staging. *J Clin Pathol* 1984;37:233-54.