BOOKS RECEIVED

Medical Virology 10

This book outlines the proceedings of the 10th International Symposium on Medical Virology, held in October, 1990 at Newport Beach, California. The text consists of 12 extensive reviews, presumably given as invited lectures during plenary sessions of the meeting. These are followed by 21 single-page abstracts. Although the reviews stand as individual articles, it is possible to discern some linking themes between them. Thus, the first four chapters cover various aspects of laboratory diagnostic virology, including the usefulness and applications of electronmicroscopy, the use of the polymerase chain reaction in detecting viral nucleic acid sequences, and the Q replicase amplification technique. The final four chapters are concerned with aspects of prevention and treatment of virus infections, specifically those transmitted by transfusion, a novel approach to influenza vaccination by use of a purified neuraminidase subunit vaccine, lessons learned from use of an attenuated varicella vaccine, and the potential of antisense oligonucleotides as antiviral agents. The intervening third of the book is more of a mixed bag, covering determinants of measles mortality, the epidemiology of HIV-1 infection, human herpesvirus type 6, and papillomaviruses and human cancer. Perhaps a unique feature, for a book of this nature, is the absence of a chapter on hepatitis C virus, or, indeed, any of the hepatitis viruses. Paradoxically, this avoidance of quinamidone against natural infections of Entamoeba histolytica in hamsters: a new potent agent for intestinal amoebiasis. Parasitology 1985; 38: 959-963.


