

## Book Reviews

**International Convocations on Immunology**  
8th Convocation, Amherst, N.Y., June 1982  
ISSN 0074-4220  
*P.L. Ogra, D.M. Jacobs* (eds.)  
**Regulation of the Immune Response**  
Karger, Basel 1983  
XIV + 410 pp., 64 fig., 75 tab., bound  
SFr. 217.—/DM 260.—/US\$ 130.00  
ISBN 3-8055-3574-0

The International Convocations on Immunology are now well established as scientifically important events. The 8th Convocation was devoted to the timely problems of the regulation of the immune response. The present well-organized and beautifully produced volume contains the proceedings of the conference. The 'Ernest Witebsky Memorial Lecture' has been delivered by *Sir Gustav Nossal* on a 'Unifying concept of tolerance and immune regulation'. Then the following main topics have been thoroughly and expertly reviewed in 38 presentations by leading workers: systemic immunoregulatory mechanisms; mucosal immunoregulatory mechanisms; immunoregulation to exogenous agents; implications in clinical disease states, and immunoregulation in bone marrow transplantation. There are also a number of abstracts of poster presentations. The book is warmly recommended. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg

*M. H. Grieco, D. K. Meriney* (eds.)  
**Immunodiagnosis for Clinicians**  
Interpretation of Immunoassays  
Year Book Medical Publishers, London 1983  
XI + 441 pp.; £ 26.40  
ISBN 0-8151-4003-7

As the editors rightly point out the rapid development of immunology led to that 'immunological assays have been increasingly utilized by clinical laboratories'. Many clinicians feel that they lack knowledge of the basic immunologic mechanisms, which are at the bottom of the assays. This makes the interpretation of the results of such assays difficult. The present volume provides all the necessary information on 'basic immunology, methodology and the interpretation of immunoassays, grouped according to clinical disorders'. This very useful volume is warmly recommended. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg

*S. Leibowitz, R.A.C. Hughes*  
**Immunology of the Nervous System**  
Current Topics in Immunology Series  
Arnold, London 1983  
XI + 298 pp.; £ 22.50  
ISBN 0-7131-4300-2

This is a basic textbook in neuroimmunology; well written, broad, and full of useful information. The book should be valuable for both the immunologist and the neurologist and I recommend it

to those interested in the field. It is not, however, the book that you read from cover to cover as it lacks the tense and excitement of a book that details new, but perhaps still controversial findings. Rather the book is your trustworthy fellow kept in the bookcase to be read whenever you want to brush up any special subject.

The book begins with three background chapters: an introduction to immunology in general, the blood-brain barrier - its anatomy, physiology and immunology, and hypersensitivity in the CNS. All very useful, but as an immunologist I find the immunology part perhaps a bit too simplified and sometimes not fully correct.

There are several clinically oriented chapters such as those on polyradiculoneuritis, infections of the nervous system, myasthenia gravis and multiple sclerosis. All very well written and the ones I like best.

The book ends with two chapters on fields with rapid changes and with high expectations for the future: tumor immunology and monoclonal antibodies as tools for exploring the nervous system. Here, the authors have chosen to rather introduce the subject than to cover the field. A clever approach, as this part otherwise would most likely be the first to need revision. A. Fasth, Göteborg

*E. Middleton, Ch. E. Reed, E.F. Ellis* (eds.)  
**Allergy**, vol. I + II  
Principles and Practice  
Mosby, St. Louis 1983  
XXII + 669/XXII + 673-1440 pp.; £ 96.-  
ISBN 0-8016-3482-2

The second edition of this exhaustive textbook is improved in many respects. It provides reliable information on 'basic' (volume I) and 'clinical science' (volume 2). It is very well organized and easily understandable. The first edition was published 5 years ago. The wealth of new facts and ideas, which have emerged since then, is well accounted for. There are still some details (e.g. the definition of 'allergy') which I cannot accept. The book as a whole is, however, of high quality and can be recommended as a very useful guide in this complex and important area of science. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg

*Francis A. Ennis* (ed.)  
**Human Immunity to Viruses**  
Academic Press, New York 1983  
XV + 348 pp.; US\$ 39.-  
ISBN 0-12-239980-3

The lack of effective chemotherapeutic drugs or antibiotics against viral diseases makes immunological research in this field, with the final aim of developing effective vaccines, urgent. The present volume provides excellent information on the standing of immunologic research in this area. The complex interplay of primary nonspecific defence, specific antibodies and cellular immune mechanisms, is thoroughly and lucidly discussed. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg