Further Section

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St. J. O’Brien Genetic Maps 1984
The volume with the comparative gene mapping of mammals, updated by the authors every 2 years, is a most valuable source of information. The chapter of human maps includes on 48 pages the following sections: Human gene map, Inborn errors, Human mitochondrial DNA, Neoplastic cytogenetic map, Human biochemical markers, Human loci with mapped homologs in other species, Oncogenes and cancer loci, Human mitochondrial DNA. The authors are Victor A. McKusick, John J. Mulvihill, Patricia Madigan, Stephen J. O’Brien and Douglas C. Wallace. The morbid anatomy of the human genome is represented in synoptical tables. For chromosome No. 11, for instance, 30 different mutations leading to nondeletion forms of ß-thalassemia are listed. References are given for each section. The volume can be purchased directly from the publisher: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Fulfillment Department, RO. Box 100, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724 (USA).

H.R. Marti, Aarau

In the chapter ‘Methods and organisation of toxicological laboratories’ the value of screening methods is pointed out. Single immunochemical tests yield good results and can be carried out in a hospital. In most cases, the results correspond with those obtained by chromatographic methods in special laboratories. The course of laboratory parameters after heavy metal poisoning is given. There is a special paper about Amanita phalloides poisoning; the successful treatment with silibinin is stressed. A special chapter is also dedicated to the suicidal patient, prognosis and psychological treatment. The last chapter consists of small papers about poisoning with clonidin, carbamazepin, thallium, lead etc. Lung damage after different poisonings is another subject of the volume.

In summary the book is a valuable contribution to the whole field of toxicology. The physician working in the intensive care unit as well as the general practitioner can find the necessary information in a short time. There are also valuable scientific data concerning the course of different poisoning. The book can highly be recommended.

G. Keiser, Zug

E. Deutsch, G. Kleinberger, R. Ritz & H.P. Schuster Diagnosis, Course and Treatment of Serious Exogenous Intoxications
In the series of Actual Intensive Care the first volume Diagnosis, course and treatment of serious exogenous intoxications has appeared. In this volume, the papers of the symposium ‘Intensive care days 83 of Vienna’ are published. The chapters of the volume are as follows: 1. Treatment of serious exogenous intoxications. 2. Poisoning in children. 3. Methods and organisation of toxicological laboratories. 4. The suicidal patient. 5. Actual problems of experimental and clinical toxicology. The contributions of the various authors can be regarded as good, they
provide complete and important information about the whole field of poisoning and contain helpful illustrations and tables. It is easy for the physician (general practitioner and specialist) to find relevant data concerning general signs and symptoms, criteria of surveillance, neurological symptoms, signs of respiratory insufficiency, ECG alterations after intoxication with tricyclic substances. Antidotes are listed in tables. There are critical papers about evacuation of stomach, forced diuresis, dialysis, hemofiltration, plasma exchange and their indications. A special paper deals with the treatment of carbon tetrachloride poisoning with forced ventilation. There are two papers about poisoning in children, wherein the ‘primu nim tal’ is stressed.


The 5th edition of this standard book on basic laboratory methods was published in 1975 and has been translated in 1980 into Japanese. For the 6th edition every chapter has been revised and new chapters have been added. The contents cover the whole field of diagnostic laboratory methods including quality control. The techniques which are currently used at Hammersmith Hospital and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London are described in detail. The SI units are adopted, and the haemoglobin concentration is expressed in g/l. The high standard of the previous editions is maintained. H.R. Marti, Aarau

George J. Brewer
Progress in Clinical and Biological Research, vol. 165
The Red Cell

The monograph contains the proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Red Cell Metabolism and Function which was held October 3-5, 1983 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The conference and the proceedings are dedicated to Prof. 246

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Hermann Lehmann of Cambridge University, England. In six major sessions the following topics have been treated by investigators of high international reputation: normal and abnormal hemoglobins, hemoglobinopathies, new thrusts in blood substitutes and blood replacement, red cell metabolism, malaria and the red cell, and red cell membranes. In addition to the many original papers ‘mini-reviews’ on the main topics have been presented. The book can be recommended to biochemists and hematologists in laboratory and clinical practice.  H.R. Marti, Aarau

Sergio Piomelli, Stanley Yachnin Current Topics in Hematology, vol. 5

Volume 5 of the series ‘Current Topics in Hematology’ contains excellent reviews by most competent authors on the following subjects: genetic defects in the thalassemias, ferritin, plasma membrane phospholipid organization in human erythrocytes, regulation of blood coagulation factor levels in plasma, transferrin receptors. The book should have its place in every hospital library.
D. W. Golde and 24 competent contributors have edited a most useful textbook containing the laboratory techniques for the study of normal and neoplastic hematopoietic cells. The chapters are dealing with multipotent stem cells in vivo and in vitro, with progenitors of the different cell lines, with the methods of isolation, identification and colony growth, the diffusion chamber culture, long-term cultures, leukemia cell cultures, the development of human hematopoietic cell lines, the heterotransplantation of human neoplastic hematopoietic cells in immunodeficient mice, hematopoietic growth factors and cell separation techniques for enrichment of human stem cells. The volume is a most valuable source of information for laboratory investigators working with hematopoietic cells.

Hans Ulrich Bergmeyer (ed.)
Methods of Enzymatic Analysis, vol. VI
Metabolites 1: Carbohydrates, 3rd ed.
The series of Bergmeyer's 'Methods of Enzymatic Analysis' has a world-wide reputation for its outstanding quality and every biochemist is familiar with this. Volume VI contains methods for the determination of compounds of the carbohydrate metabolism. It goes without saying that the descriptions of the enzyme-based as says are clearly arranged and up-to-date. The high standard of the preceding volumes is fully maintained.