Book Review


This volume continues a high caliber series of reviews attractive to those interested in the medical aspects of virology. The nature of the book emphasizes the rapid rate that the knowledge of viral diseases is expanding, since 9 of the 11 reviews included are rewritten and updated by the authors who originally wrote them 9-15 years ago. The topics, while highly varied, are most pertinent in keeping with the current problems of importance. Among the serious viral diseases considered are viral-associated congenital malformations (R. J. Blattner, A. P. Williamson and F. M. Heys), coxsackievirus infections of the newborn (J. H. S. Gear and V. Meas-roch), and virus myocardtiopathy (A. M. Lerner and F. M. Wilson); updated discussions of the cytomegaloviruses (G. Plummer), viruses of the respiratory tract (T. G. Ward), helper-dependent bacteriophage P4 and its implication as a model to animal virology (K. Barrett, R. Calendar, W. Gibbs, R. N. Goldstein, B. Lindqvist and E. Ses), and contemporary classification of animal viruses (J. L. Melnick) are also included. The book contains three reviews on control of viral diseases: the current status of the medical virology programme of the World Health Organization (W. C. Cockburn), mass vaccination programs in developing countries (W. H. Foege and D. L. Edyn) and recent advances in the serodiagnosis of viral infections (N. J. Schmidt and E. H. Lennette). An interesting and informative review of high resolution electron microscopy of thin-section preparations of virus-infected cells (N. Higashi) contributes greatly to understanding of virus particle structure and viral morphogenesis. The authors of these reviews are unquestionably pioneers in their respective areas of research, adding in no small way to the credibility of their articles. R. W. Sidwell, Irvine, Calif.