The book, Perspectives in Virology XI, contains the proceedings of the Eleventh Gustav Stern Symposium on Perspectives in Virology, held in New York City, February, 1980. This particular symposium was devoted primarily to various aspects of virology in infectious disease and was deliberately organized to provide... ‘a forum for individuals with such diverse interests that they might, otherwise, find little interest in a single, scientific meeting’ as stated by Morris Pollard, the editor. With such an introduction, one may wonder if the wide variation of topics would hinder the value of the book. To the contrary, most of the various authors have done a creditable job of summarizing recent developments in their respective fields to the point that the reader seeking brief but significant updates on many aspects of the virology of infectious disease should find considerable satisfaction with the book.

The following topics are considered: adenovirus late transcriptional unit, synthesis and assembly of vesicular stomatitis virus and sindbis virus glyco-proteins, paramyxovirus and myxovirus envelope proteins, herpes simplex virus temperature-sensitive mutants, avian sarcoma virus protein responsible for malignant transformation, molecular epidemiology of influenza virus, interferon-like substance from virus-infected plants, virus-induced diabetes mellitus, viral gastroenteritis (Norwalk virus and rotavirus), enteric coronavirus growth, delta antigen, developments in hepatitis vaccines, chemotherapy for viral diseases, and Rift valley fever.

Overviews of perspectives of basic virology and medical virology are also very briefly discussed. The authors of most of the topics presented do not attempt to fully review the literature, but only highlight certain recent reports of particular interest to them and then present a summary of their own current findings. Brevity is particularly apparent throughout, which may be an advantage to one seeking only significant new findings in a particular field, but keeping in mind that the ‘significance’ of those findings may be flavored somewhat by the respective authors, who for the most part are well known and respected.

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J.A. Washington
Laboratory Procedures in Clinical Microbiology

As the editor clearly stated in the opening sentence of his preface, there already exist several comprehensive books dealing with diagnostic clinical microbiology, chief among these the ASM Manual of Clinical Microbiology (third edition). However, the editor and his co-workers succeeded in presenting this complex field in well-organized chapters, including succinct tables. Most important, innumerable, useful practical comments were included as well. The majority of the recently recognized human pathogens (Legionella, Campylobacter fetus ss. jejuni,
Yersinia enterocolitica, rotaviruses, JK diphtheroids) were presented in depth. The literature references are remarkably up to date (including 1980). Nevertheless, some flaws were evident: some of the illustrations (e.g., chapter 1, No. 2-6; colored illustration No. 2-la) might be replaced; the technique for grouping \( \beta \)-hemolytic streptococci with the aid of coagglutination was not stated (chapter 4); serogrouping of recovered Salmonellae was covered rather superficially (chapter 4, p. 210); dark-field microscopy for Treponema pallidum as well as serologic tests for syphilis were not presented at all; the same applied for serologic tests with respect to ‘classical’ bacterial infections, such as ASO, DNase B for \( \beta \)-hemolytic streptococci, O-agglutination tests for Y. enterocolitica, Brucella abortus, Francisella tularensis; the principles of radioimmuno- and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays could have been presented in the chapter dealing with fluorescent antibody and counterimmunoelectrophoresis techniques; the same applied for indirect hemagglutination and latex agglutination tests, just to name a few additional examples.

Despite these ‘childhood diseases’ of a first edition, this book will serve as a valuable adjunct to already existing textbooks in the diagnostic microbiology laboratory. Last, but not least, infectious disease clinicians and students of medical technology should profit from the relevant chapters.

W. H. Traub, Homburg/Saar

E.A. Birge

Bacterial and Bacteriophage Genetics
An Introduction
Springer Series in Microbiology
Springer, Berlin 1981
359 pp., Ill fig.; DM 54.-/US$ 25.70
ISBN 3-540-90504-9

The author stated in his preface that this book is aimed primarily at graduate students taking introductory courses in bacterial and bacteriophage genetics. The author employed straightforward, concise language which facilitated reading; the style proved lucid. Each chapter is followed by a succinct summary. The illustrations and figures are clear-cut. The literature references are remarkably up-to-date (1980). Introductory chapters (procaryotic genophore, statistics, mutagenesis) are followed by chapters dealing with the genetics of lytic (intemperate), temperate, and pseudotemperate phages. Subsequent chapters explain the diverse modes of genetic exchange among bacteria (transduction, transformation, transfection, conjugation). Among the diverse bacterial plasmids, the F plasmid, coli-cins, and antibiotic resistance plasmids are presented in depth. There follow chapters dealing with metabolic regulation (operon concept; complex re-gulons) and with repair and recombination mechanisms of DNA molecules. The various methods of gene splicing (‘genetic engineering’), including difficulties encountered, chief among these cloning of eukaryotic DNA, are presented extensively. The final chapter offers a preview regarding the future applications of diverse new experimental procedures in molecular genetics. All in all, the author succeeded admirably well in presenting an excellent introductory text with respect to this increasingly complex subject. W. H. Traub, Homburg/Saar

C.L.M. Olweny, M.S.R. Hutt and R. Owor

Kaposi’s Sarcoma
Antibiotics and Chemotherapy, vol. 29
Karger, Basel 1981
104 pp., 36 fig., 30 tab.;
SFR. 89.-/DM 107.-/US$ 53.50
ISBN 3-8055-2076-X
This little book covers the state of knowledge of Kaposi’s sarcoma up to 1980 in a comprehensive and very readable manner. The pictorial material quite adequately illustrates the clinical and histopathological manifestations that support the clinical and pathologic classifications that are presently used to describe Kaposi’s sarcoma. This disease is uncommon in a major portion of the world but is common in East and Central Africa. Experts from these endemic areas have observed the life history of the disease and amply confirm the benign course of the nodular condition in adults with survival for many years as opposed to the rapidly fatal (8-10 months) form in children. References are made to environmental, racial, social, immunologic and genetic factors that may influence the incidence of the disease but the etiology of Kaposi’s sarcoma is still unknown. Recent work has indicated interesting associations with antibodies of cytomegalovirus and suggests a possible relationship to virus infection. The observation of anergy in the aggressive form of Kaposi’s sarcoma and the seeming benefit in some cases treated with BCG vaccine or by the administration of blood from patients recently vaccinated with BCG vaccine, indicate some promise for immunotherapy of this disease. There is a consensus that Kaposi’s sarcoma represents a radiosensitive and drug-sensitive tumor. Despite a considerable toxicity the combined therapy with vinca alkaloids, bleomycin and actinomycin D has shown some promise even in the management of the aggressive form of Kaposi’s sarcoma. Surgery has only an adjunctive or palliative role in the management of some cases of Kaposi’s sarcoma. It has been suggested that surgery as a tumor ‘debulking’ procedure may have an immunotherapeutic effect in some cases.
This book is recommended as an excellent review of currently available information on this rare tumor. The book can be read from cover to cover in an evening. W. P. Boger, Wayne, Pa.