

Book Reviews

Properties of Monoclonal Antibodies Produced by Hybridoma Technology and their Application to the Study of Diseases, Proceedings of a Symposium held at the National University of Singapore, October 1981.

This is a paperback of 199 pages, produced by UNDP/World Bank/WHO for the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, Geneva, and published in 1982. The six parts include: Preparation, properties and uses of monoclonal antibodies (MCA); MCA to protozoa; MCA to metazoa; MCA to bacteria and viruses; MCA to cell surfaces and immunoglobulins and finally, 'future outlook'. Part IV on MCA to bacteria and viruses includes papers on the production and characterization on MCA to *Mycobacterium leprae* (Gillis and Buchanan); MCA to *M. leprae* (Humber) and antigenic analysis of mycobacteria using MCAs (Pinto). [It is our understanding that *bona fide* applicants with a research or scientific interest in this subject may apply to the TDR programme in Geneva for a copy of this book. *Editor.*]

Monoclonal Antibodies in Clinical Medicine, by Andrew J McMichael and John W Fabre, Academic Press, London, 1983, 678 pages, price £34.00.

The publishers description reads as follows:

'This book, with an introductory chapter by Dr Cesar Milstein on the historical aspects and general principles of monoclonal antibodies, brings together comprehensive reviews on all the major areas of current clinical applications and speculates on future clinical uses. Arranged into 24 chapters, the book covers all the main areas of clinical research including oncology, haematology, microbiology, genetics, pharmacology, drug targeting, neurobiology and obstetrics. The use of monoclonal antibodies for diagnosis, prognosis, therapy and understanding of pathophysiology is discussed in each section. Of immediate importance is not only their use in the treatment of leukemias, graft rejection and drug overdose, but also the potential of monoclonal antibody/toxin conjugates as 'magic bullets'. In addition, the identification of possible tumour-specific antigens and micro-

bial antigens which might form the basis of vaccines for some of the virally induced neoplasmas and infectious diseases provides an area of great potential clinical benefit.

In November 1982, Dr McMichael, who is University Lecturer in Medicine at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford, was awarded a Medical Research Council Clinical Research Professorship as MRC Clinical Research Professor of Immunology.'

Traditional Medicine and Health Care Coverage; a reader for health administrators and practitioners, edited by Robert Bannerman, John Burton and Ch'en Wen-chieh, WHO, 1983, 432 pp + index. Swiss fr. 35.

The purpose of this book is to provide a better understanding of traditional, indigenous and unorthodox systems. This should help to foster team work among all categories of health workers. The book therefore examines the most common patterns of these systems and some of their local or regional variations, and suggests how health practitioners and administrators might best apply this information as they endeavour to improve health care coverage, particularly in the developing countries. This book is illustrated and is available from Distribution and Sales, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

A Manual of Leprosy, edited by R H Thangaraj, The Leprosy Mission (India), 1983, 402 pp, hardback.

Edited by the Director of the Leprosy Mission for Southern Asia and published in New Delhi, the first edition (1976) was entitled 'Textbook of leprosy for students and para-medical workers'; the second (1980) under the present title. Twenty-two eminent contributors have cooperated to cover virtually the whole subject of leprosy from history (Chapter 1) to the National Leprosy Control Programme (Chapter 29). The book is profusely illustrated with black and white and also colour plates, together with diagrams and tables. Enquiries in India to Dr R H Thangaraj, The Leprosy Mission, 4th Floor, Sheetla House, 73-74 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019; in the UK to Leprosy Mission (International) London.