Antiviral Research, 5 (1985) 61–63
Elsevier

Book reviews

Monographs in Virology
Vol. 16, Antiviral Chemotherapy, Interferons and Vaccins
D.O. White (ed.)
S. Karger AG, Basle, 1984
SFr 77.00/DM 92.00/US $ 46.25, 112 pages.

Contents: Antiviral Chemotherapy–Strategy for the development of antiviral agents; Clinical application of antiviral chemotherapy; Interferons; Nucleoside analogues; Other antiviral agents; Other possible approaches.
Antiviral vaccines–Classification of vaccines; New approaches to vaccine design; Human viral vaccines.

This monograph can be considered as a digest of the recent developments on antiviral agents, including interferons and vaccines. This authoritatively written review is really meant as an introduction to the field and, in this sense, extremely useful to all of those who are working in closely or distantly related areas and want to keep abreast of the new trends in antiviral research.

E. DE CLERCQ

* * * * *

Antiviral Agents and Viral Diseases of Man, 2nd edition
George J. Galasso, Thomas C. Merigan and Robert A. Buchanan (eds.)
Raven Press, New York, 1984
577 pages, US $ 88.50

Contents: Fundamentals of virus structure and replication; Pathogenesis of viral infections; Mechanisms of action and pharmacology: Chemical agents, Immune and interferon systems; Laboratory diagnosis of viral infections; Ocular viral diseases; Respiratory diseases; Viral infections of the gastrointestinal tract; Viral infections of the central nervous system; Chronic intrauterine and perinatal infections; Systemic viral infections and viral infections in immunosuppressed patients; Varicella-Zoster virus infections; Antiviral therapy today.

This work in 14 chapters, written by 22 authors will be useful for all those who are interested in medical virology. For the student it contains an overview of general and medical virology. The laboratory virologist will find an updated overview of new

developments in virus diagnosis and strategies for the design of antiviral drugs. For the clinician an organ-system-classified overview of viral diseases is given. The book is well illustrated, concisely but clearly written and extensively referenced. As such, it is a useful textbook and a standard work.

G. OPDENAKKER

* * * * *

The Microbe 1984 – I Viruses
36th Symposium of the Society for General Microbiology
ed. by B.W.J. Mahy and J.R. Pattison
Cambridge University Press, London, 1984
344 pages, £30.00, US $ 59.50
ISBN 0 521 26056 6,

Contents – Peter Wildy: An analysis of virology; Stephen C. Harrison: The structure of viruses; Duncan J. McGeoch: The nature of animal virus genetic material; David Baltimore: The vagaries of viral evolution: the example of poliovirus replication initiation; J. Michael Bishop: Exploring carcinogenesis with retroviruses; Neville Symonds: The role of recombination in the life of bacterial viruses; Darryl Reanney: The molecular evolution of viruses; Bernard N. Fields: Mechanisms of virus-host interactions; Robin A. Weiss: Viruses and human cancer; J.R. Pattison, F. Brown and A.A. Brunt: New virus disease syndromes; D.A.J. Tyrrell: The eradication of virus infections; H.L. Sanger: Minimal infectious agents: the viroids.

The text on the cover flap reads as follows: "To celebrate the hundredth meeting of the Society for General Microbiology some eminent microbiologists have been invited to review the present state of knowledge of microbiology and to look ahead at what the future might hold beyond 1984. Their contributions are published in two volumes: Part I on Viruses and Part II on Prokaryotes and Eukaryotes.

This volume on viruses provides an up-to-date account of our knowledge concerning the viruses of animals, plants and humans, and the diseases which they cause. It is written from a philosophical point of view and discusses both the origins of viruses and possible future developments in virus research, including the possiblility of the development of new virus diseases. An extensive account of the role of viruses in the aetiology of cancer is included, as well as the possible uses of virus research in understanding and treating cancer in humans."

I agree with the editors that the book will be read with pleasure by postgraduates in virology and experimental oncology. To the other possible categories of readers, especially undergraduates, I would advise the book as supplementary reading to basic texts only.

A. BILLIAU

* * * * *