

## Book reviews

### *Immunobiology of Infection with Herpes Simplex Virus*

by H. Kirchner

Monographs in Virology, Vol. 13

J.L. Melnick (ed.)

S. Karger, Basel, 1982

Prof. Kirchner reviews and discusses in an organized fashion evidence from both clinical and experimental studies on the interaction between herpes viruses and the immune system.

Undoubtedly, immunobiological studies have provided clues to several important questions in herpes virus pathology. However, understanding of the central mystery of latency and recurrence of herpes viruses has not gained so much from the immunobiological approach. Perhaps some of the more novel hybrid disciplines, such as neuro-immunology and neuro-endocrinology, will bring us the answers. In particular, in reading this review, one is struck by the fact that virtually no work has been done on the possible effects that hormonal status (menstruation, menopause, ageing, etc.) may exert, via the immune system, on herpes virus pathology.

Neuro-immunology, on the other hand, may make the link between molecular events in the viral genome-containing cell and recurrence-triggering events that are at play at the physiological level. This review shows that a lot of ground has been covered but that the big finds have still to be made.

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### *Double-Stranded RNA Viruses*

by Richard W. Compans and David H.L. Bishop (eds.)

Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Double-Stranded RNA Viruses, held October 5–10, 1982, at Frenchman's Reef, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands  
Elsevier Biomedical, Amsterdam, New York, Oxford

ISBN 0-444-00740-7. US \$ 90.00

The first two parts of this book give a good outline of how molecular cloning is improving knowledge on the genomic structure of such dsRNA viruses as Reovirus, Cytoplasmic Polyhedrosis Virus, Bluetongue Virus, Rotaviruses and Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus. Also the use of molecular probing to classify serotypes is