

for the busy primary care practitioner to read up on a topic.

The major limitation of this book is a lack of detail on some of the topics. Because the textbook is not meant to be encyclopedic, some of this lack of detail is expected. The section on hepatitis C gives a good overview but does not discuss the use of pegylated interferon. The discussion of herpes zoster virus is surprisingly brief given how commonly it occurs in the outpatient setting. In the section on acute bacterial meningitis, the need to give antibiotics as soon as possible, even if a lumbar puncture cannot be performed immediately, is clearly explained. However, there is no mention of the importance of obtaining blood samples for culture as a part of the diagnostic evaluation, especially when a lumbar puncture cannot be done at the outset. An atlas of color photos would have been a helpful addition.

Despite its 701 pages, the book is slim, which will make it easy to keep on hand and to use for quick review of a topic. This text will be most useful for a wide audience of primary care practitioners, including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, family practitioners, pediatricians, obstetricians, and internists. Medical students and residents in an ambulatory care setting will also appreciate this readable text as well as the guidance it gives on how to seek more in-depth knowledge.

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Rabies

Edited by Alan C. Jackson
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San Diego: Academic Press, 2002. 485 pp.,
illustrated. \$129.95 (cloth).

Rabies is a zoonosis that kills more humans than does meningococcal meningitis, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, or polio. It is a significant drain on public

health budgets in many developing countries. Only a few researchers actively apply modern technology to rabies treatment, and research about this disease has been underfunded. George M. Baer's *Natural History of Rabies*, which was published more than a decade ago, has been the bible for rabies researchers worldwide. Here is a new book that should take its place.

The editors of *Rabies* recruited 15 authors, all of whom are highly respected researchers in their fields. The virology, chemical composition, molecular biology, and genomic variability of *Lyssavirus* species are well summarized in a chapter by William Wunner, and these data are then expanded in a chapter written by Jean Smith, who has applied knowledge of modern molecular science to the epidemiology of rabies. A very comprehensive chapter by Michael Niezgod, Cathleen A. Hnlon, and Charles E. Rupprecht deals with rabies in terrestrial and arboreal animals. The clinical features and pathogenesis of rabies in humans are discussed by Alan Jackson. Chapters about pathology and diagnostic evaluation, written by Yuzo Owasaki, Muneshige Tobita, and Charles Trimarchi with Jean Smith, should be of practical value for physicians and veterinarians who are suddenly confronted with a case of rabies. Monique Lafon shares her extensive experience with the immunology of this disease.

The chapter on vaccines for rabies in animals and humans, which was written by Deborah Briggs, David Dreesen, and William Wunner, provides an overview of the present situation worldwide. They do not neglect to discuss the shortages and high cost of quality tissue-culture rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins in the worst-affected countries. In another chapter, Briggs points out that we know virtually all there is to know about this disease and that we have the tools to control it, but that we lack the funding and, often, the will to institute an effective eradication plan. The next 2 chapters (a chapter about rabies in dogs, written by Konrad Boegel, and a chapter about rabies in wild-

life, written by David Johnson and Rowland Tinline) reinforce the view that the greatest challenge is control of this disease among the huge population of stray and community-owned dogs in countries where canine rabies is endemic. It is a challenge that cannot be solved without more public education, adequate funding, and motivation of local governments to perform sustainable mass vaccination of all dogs. All chapters contain well-selected references.

The last chapter, which discusses future needs and challenges, lists new developments in rabies vaccinology and monoclonal antibody technology that are interesting to read about and that vary from possible DNA-based vaccines to vaccines grown in plants and vegetables. It may well be that production of some of these vaccines will be cost-effective some day. However, reading this book reminded me again of the fact that we already have high-quality vaccines and methods to produce antibodies. The need to make such biological agents affordable in poor countries where rabies is endemic has not been emphasized enough in this book, which was written by scientists from developed countries where state-of-the-art postexposure treatment is readily available to all. More should also be said about a search for humane methods to control the dog population in countries where canine rabies is endemic. Culling stray dogs is not culturally acceptable in Hindu and Buddhist regions of the world, and there is a real need to find low-cost and practical chemical or hormonal methods for canine sterilization. A "one-shot," long-acting canine rabies vaccine should not be beyond reach today, because there are many new developments in biological agents with delaying and adjuvanting properties. The next edition of this valuable book could be further improved by adding a chapter that discusses these important issues in more detail.

A sobering thought is that rabies virus is readily obtainable in most parts of the world, that it can be grown on many tissue culture systems, and that it certainly can

be aerosolized. Therefore, it could be another potential terrifying agent of biological warfare. This fact was first suggested casually to me in March 1997 by Professor M. Selimov at the International Conference on Rabies (Institute Pasteur; Paris). A world map of rabies in terrestrial and known arboreal animals, a list of current manufacturers of vaccines and biological agents for the prevention and/or treatment of rabies, and better illustrations might also improve the next edition of this otherwise excellent book.

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trum, 2002. 339 pp. \$79.92. ISBN: 0-471-17846-2.

Herbert MA, Hood DW, Moxon ER. Methods in Molecular Medicine: *Haemophilus influenzae* Protocols. Totowa, NJ: Humana Press, 2002. 333 pp. \$119.50. ISBN: 0-89603-928-5.

New Books Received

Feitelson MA. Hepatitis C Virus: From Laboratory to Clinic. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002. 256 pp. \$48.00. ISBN: 0-521-79959-7.

Wilson M, McNab R, Henderson B. Bacterial Disease Mechanisms: An Introduction to Cellular Microbiology. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002. 656 pp. \$65.00. ISBN: 0-521-79689-X.

Jackson AC, Wunner WH. Rabies. San Diego: Academic Press, 2002. 493 pp. \$129.95. ISBN: 0-12-379077-8.

Yoshikawa TT, Ouslander JG. Infection Management for Geriatrics in Long-Term Care Facilities. New York: Marcel Dekker, 2002. 497 pp. \$175.00. ISBN: 0-8247-0784-2.

Klein JD, Zaoutis TE. Pediatric Infectious Disease Secrets. Philadelphia: Hanley & Belfus, 2002. 340 pp. \$39.95. ISBN: 1-56053-546-6.

Hacker J, Heesemann J. Molecular Infection Biology: Interactions between Microorganisms and Cells. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Spek-