to communicable diseases. There is a lack of common approach to the writing of each chapter. Therefore the book achieves its goal for some topics and provides a starting point for others, but a few chapters give merely the author's opinion and not a basis from which to teach.

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Viral Infections, Contemporary Issues in Infectious Diseases. RICHARD K. ROOT & MERLE E. SANDE. Pp. 218 + 20 figs. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone; 1992. £48.00.

The editors of this volume state, in their introduction, that 'the last decade has witnessed an explosion in our knowledge of the role of viruses in the pathogenesis of human disease'. That this is indeed the case can be gleaned from the increasing proportion of papers in general medical journals devoted to the biology, diagnosis and treatment of viral illness. Among 11 chapters, each written by renowned experts, are those on respiratory viruses, herpes simplex and cytomegalovirus, rotavirus, B19 parvovirus, HIV and hepatitis B. These vary in emphasis, some dealing mainly with basic virology whereas others cover primarily clinical aspects. All are well written and referenced up until late 1991 and, in some cases, early 1992. The chapter on treatment of HIV infection in children is especially informative and includes details of ongoing clinical trials. There is also a lucid summary of acyclovir resistance, in the chapter on herpes simplex virus; however, the U.S. bias throughout the book is illustrated in the comment that there is '... no excuse for lack of availability of acyclovir susceptibility testing in most modern practice settings'. The chapter on chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), by Jay Levy and others, is more speculative and experimental, but also refreshing in that it shifts the debate over aetiology of CFS from 'a single culprit virus', to more general mechanisms. Prions, now accepted as honorary viruses, despite their apparent unique properties, are discussed by Prusiner. Unfortunately, this chapter, as well as two others, are merely adaptations of previously published review articles in widely read journals. At whom is this volume aimed? As an update in recent progress in virology for clinicians, it has major omissions, such as hepatitis C and E, and human herpesviruses 6 and 7. For the pure virologist, some chapters are weak on basic science. I wonder whether money would not be better spent as a subscription to one of the growing number of review journals in virology, which, in general, are excellent value.

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A Colour Atlas of Medical Entomology. N. R. H. BURGESS & G. O. COWAN. Pp. 144. 300 figs. London: Chapman and Hall; 1992. £55.00.

This new colour atlas encompasses the wide variety of insects detrimental to the health of humans in tropical and temperate regions of the world.

With over 300 photographic illustrations it aims to provide the user with adequate material to identify arthropods of medical importance. It is also suggested the reader will find the descriptive content useful in diagnosis and disease control.

No prior knowledge of entomology is assumed as the classification and anatomy of insects are clarified in the introduction. The following chapters outline the salient features of each relevant insect family, its anatomical description, life cycle, breeding sites and medical significance. Two interesting closing chapters describing methods of arthropod attack and emphasizing measures for personal protection and vector control widen the scope of the book.

The photographs including many of the authors' own are reproduced to a high standard. However, the inclusion of some photographed line drawings and maps which appear dated detract from the over-all quality of presentation. Some of the illustrations lack a reference to scale, making them impractical for the purposes of identification.