

and their biochemistry. Some of these are now receiving the attention they deserve as a result of our perception of them as 'biotechnologically' interesting. Ferguson's chapter on the periplasm is a useful, if rather short one. The periplasm is very poorly treated in textbooks, and there are few adequate up-to-date reviews, so this is a most valuable contribution. It was good to find discussion of the periplasm's physical properties and of how Gram-positive bacteria do without it.

The volume is completed by five chapters on bacterial differentiation. These seem to be becoming obligatory in books on cell biology. The problem for organisers of symposia is selecting the topics. *Bacillus* sporulation and germination chooses itself as a topic, and there are two excellent short chapters, by Moir and Stragier, on different aspects of compartmentalization of gene expression during sporulation. This particular process is the nearest we can come at the moment to explaining morphogenetic events in bacteria. So little is known of the genetics and molecular biology of most of the other candidates for Differentiation chapters, compared with the *E. coli* and *B. subtilis* material that fills the rest of the book, that the choice has to be a subjective one. The present volume avoids contributors whose reviews can be found everywhere, and as a result there is a welcome freshness to Adams' article on multicellular development in cyanobacteria, Shimkets' on myxococcus and Hodgson's on 'actinomycetes' (actually streptomycetes after the second page), though in this last case some of the illustrations are old friends!

The book has no index, but the chapters are mainly short and well-focused and probably do not need one. Moreover a bad index, which is the norm, is seldom better than none. Altogether, this book is a valuable addition to the literature and, though expensive, I think good value for money. It is very well produced, with good illustrations, good bibliographies and a good binding. It is a good buy.

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*Colour Guide – Infectious Diseases.* A. P. BALL and J. A. GRAY. Pp. 120. 152 figs.  
 Churchill Livingstone, 1992. £7.95.

I feel a little bit sorry for modern students as the medical curriculum continues to expand. You can see their brains overheating as they stand at the bedside, trying to reconcile the logic of basic sciences with the bewildering array of rashes, lumps and bumps that they encounter during their clinical attachments. This book will definitely help them to learn about clinical infectious diseases. It is part of the genre of clinical atlases that can slip into the pocket. This book is different in that it appears to attempt to fuse the clinical atlas with the depth of information that you would expect to see in a 'lecture notes' book. Photographs of clinical cases are accompanied by notes on the opposite page. These are really quite detailed and contain paragraphs broken down into aetiology, incidence, pathogenesis, clinical features, complications, treatment and prevention. The book attempts to provide an acceptably large amount of information in a logical format and therefore rises above the average atlas. With the exception of the chest X-rays, all of the photographs are of the highest quality and I do not believe I have seen any of them published before. They were sufficiently clear to allow me to attempt a diagnosis without referring to the text (I was not 100% correct, I am afraid). One problem with the photographs is that there is inconsistency in the use of bars to exclude the patient's eyes. Some photographs have them, others do not; when they are used they are so ineffective that you can easily see the features of the patient's face.

I have few arguments with the text. It is divided into 43 infectious diseases, to each of which are devoted 1–2 pages accompanying 1–6 photographs. It has a commendably large paragraph on pathogenesis with each of the sections, which helps the student understand the subsequent details of the clinical features. Sometimes the paragraphs on treatment and prevention are a little too brief. I only found one typographical error in the book.

My main quibble is that no place is found for malaria, schistosomiasis and other common imported infections such as amoebic disease. In common with other Infectious Diseases Units we are seeing an increasing number of patients with these infections, and I think that a book

like this should include them. Otherwise, the list of subjects is quite representative of domestic infection problems. Overall, I thought this book was very enjoyable, and it will be useful for medical students, and trainees in microbiology, general medicine and infectious diseases.

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