

Antibiotics and Chemotherapy: Current Topics. Edited by R N Grüneberg, 1980. Pp 219. MTP Press, Lancaster. Price £12.95.

It is difficult for most people to keep abreast of the rapidly changing field of antibiotics and chemotherapy. In this book eight topics have been chosen for review which are of general interest. These include a very lucid exposition of the treatment of infective endocarditis, the vexed question of the prophylactic use of antibiotics, the treatment of anaerobic infections, and the use of combinations of antibiotics, as well as an exhaustive review of the cephalosporins, antibiotic policies, and the treatment of gonorrhoea and non-specific genital infection. Venereologists are fortunate in that most of the conditions they commonly deal with respond well to antibiotics, although they need to be aware of changing patterns of sensitivity, particularly of the gonococcus.

The chapter on gonorrhoea and non-specific genital infection is written from a practical standpoint and gives a good description of current practice with references to the recent literature up to 1978. The problems posed by the emergence of β -lactamase-producing strains of gonococci are discussed rather briefly; only spectinomycin and cefuroxime are mentioned as alternative methods of treating infections with these strains. Recent work in the field of non-specific genital infection is described

and due emphasis placed on those infections not due to chlamydia for which, in the absence of defined pathogens, treatment still has to be empirical.

These articles provide good reviews of current ideas in a number of important fields and are all backed up by extensive references. The book is well produced with a good index; it is not unduly expensive by today's standards. It can be recommended as a clearly written description of some important applications of antibiotics and their rational use.

A E Wilkinson

Fortschritte der Praktischen Dermatologie und Venerologie (Advances in Dermatology and Venereology). Edited by O Braun-Falco and H H Wolff, 1979. Pp 396. Springer Verlag, Berlin. Price DM 98, US\$54.90.

This volume is somewhat unbalanced, dealing with venereology in 40 pages out of a total of 385. Sections on gonorrhoea and syphilis are mostly confined to the German literature and the penicillin schedules suggested for late syphilis strike one as complex and fussy and include even penicillin infusions. The recent specific immunoglobulin serological tests may point the way to having tests of activity but some doubts on this score still remain.

It is a paradox that while in all Western European countries the relative number of women with gonorrhoea has gone up—approaching that of men—the ratio in West Germany has remained firmly static with three times as many men as women having been diagnosed as being infected.

The number of patients infected with β -lactamase-producing gonococci has remained very low and no routine test to determine the incidence of β -lactamase producers is at present suggested. Systemic gonorrhoea is very well described and illustrated.

In the section dealing with chlamydia-associated urethritis it is good to see that proper weight has been given to the pioneering work of Lindner, a Viennese ophthalmologist, who laid the foundation to subsequent work in this sphere in amazing detail as early as 1908 and 1910.

The long section on chancroid, which is rare in Germany, might appear out of proportion when it is realised that no mention is being made of such important and common conditions as genital herpes, sexually transmitted hepatitis, Reiter's disease, or specific vaginitis and its complications.

All in all, the section on venereal diseases will have little appeal for venereologists and probably give too little practical detail to be of much value to the dermatologist who also dabbles in venereology.

G W Csonka

Notice

Symposium on trichomoniasis

An international symposium on trichomoniasis, organised by the Commission on Trichomoniasis of the General Council of the Polish Parasitological Society, will take place between 13 and 15 July 1981 in the Medical Academy in Białystok as a satellite meeting to the VIIth International Congress of Protozoology (Warsaw, 5-11 July 1981).

The main topics will be: biology of *Trichomonas vaginalis* Donn , including culture; biochemistry and physiology; immunology and serology; clinical and experimental pathology; epidemiology; diagnosis; and treatment and prophylaxis.

Those interested in attending the meeting are asked to apply by 1 January 1981 to either Professor S Soszka (President of the organising committee), Institute of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Skłodowska Curie Str 24A, 15-097 Białystok, Poland, or Professor B Honigberg (Vice-president), Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003, USA, or Professor M M ller (vice president), Rockefeller University, New York, NY 10021, USA.

The papers will be published in English in the periodical *Wiadomości Parazytologiczne* after being read at the symposium.

Correction

In the paper by Hobson *et al* on "Quantitative aspects of chlamydial infection of the cervix" (1980;56:156-62) the results in the second paragraph on page 156 should be as follows: the proportion of women with mucopus with chlamydial infection alone was 127/260 (48.8%) and not 127/250 (65%) and that of chlamydial positive women with gonorrhoea was 83/143 (58%).