Notice

to collect such information in a single volume. Drs Schell and Musher edit this monograph to which 24 leading authorities have contributed. The result is a well balanced review of recent advances in the treponematoses, particularly syphilis. In the first part of the volume there is a resumé of the morphological, biochemical, and genetic aspects of the virulent treponemes. Inevitably, the papers cited in most chapters were not published later than

1980. After a short description of the clinical aspects of syphilis and yaws which should prove more useful to laboratory workers than to physicians, there is a good account of experimental infection of rabbits and hamsters with *Treponema pallidum*.

The third, and largest, section of the monograph is devoted to the immunology of syphilis. Cell mediated and humoral immune responses are detailed, and the

mechanism of attachment of treponemes to cell surfaces is discussed.

Overall the book is well edited and provides a relatively up to date account of progress in treponemal infection. The monograph should appeal to anyone interested in the immunology and pathogenesis of syphilis. It is expensive, however, and is more likely to be purchased by libraries than by individuals.

Notices

Symposium on skin and the nervous system

The third symposium on skin and the nervous system, entitled "New methods and advances in the study of skin innervation," is to be held from 24 to 29 March 1984 in Vienna, Austria. For further information, please contact: Professor W Gebhart, Department of Dermatology II, University of Vienna, Vienna Medical Academy for Postgraduate Education, Alser Strasse 4, A-1090 Vienna, Austria (tel: (0222) 42 13 83).

Journal of African Union Against Venereal Diseases

A new journal of STD in Africa is being launched and the first issue will appear in December 1983. It will include all aspects of STD particularly of special interest and relevance to Africa. The journal will initially be published quarterly.

Articles for forthcoming issues are required in duplicate. Annual subscriptions will be \$25 in Africa and \$30 from other continents. Cheques and other forms of payments should be made to AUVDT. The first issue will be sent free to all interested.

For further information, article subscription, and payments, please write to: Professor Herbert Nsanze, Editor, African Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, PO Box 30588, Nairobi, Kenya.

Infections of the Genital Tract

The Royal College of Pathologists is arranging a half day (2.00 to 6.00 pm) symposium on infections of the genital tract on Tuesday 17 April 1984 in London. The symposium is open to members of the college, trainee pathologists, and workers in disciplines associated with the subject.

For further information please contact: Christine Peddle, Scientific Meetings Secretary, The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF (tel: 01-930 5861).

Obituary

PROFESSOR V S RAJAN, MD,
FRCP(ED)

News of the sudden death of professor Rajan, dermatovenereologist at Middle Road Hospital, Singapore will sadden his many friends throughout the world. Most especially he will be a loss to those in the western Pacific region and south east Asia where, under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and

Treponematoses, he worked to increase government awareness and improve the practices of his colleagues.

His international reputation rested not only on his example, teaching, and organisational abilities, but on his research into both dermatology and venereology, particularly gonorrhoea.

His qualities did not go unnoticed at

home and when his colleagues elected him to a personal chair their action was applauded. Few men grew into their job as rapidly as did Professor Rajan, and he wore his academic mantle with rare assurance. Many of us will long remember him, not only for his well used talents, but also for his grace and quiet, unfailing courtesy. RSM