

the lack of differentiation between tissue elements and Gram-negative bacteria. A new histopathological staining technique was developed, and compared with five other known methods including that of Gram. Organ cultures of Fallopian tube tissue were infected with strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. After 24 hours incubation the tissues were fixed in one of four fixatives: Bouin's solution, formol saline, formol sublimate, or van de Grift's solution. After dehydration, clearing and embedding in paraffin wax, sections were cut and stained. The six stains used were: Gram, Murray-Drew, Brown-Hopps, Brown-Brenn, Gram-Twort and Gram-methyl green-pyronin-light green (Gram MGPLG). The Gram MGPLG technique was developed during this study. With this method, tissue elements stain blue or green, Gram-positive organisms magenta, and Gram-negative organisms scarlet. Van de Grift's fixative was found to give the best intensity of staining and brilliance of colour with Gram MGPLG stain.

When these staining techniques were compared, there was found to be little difference between the methods for Gram-positive organisms; with the Murray-Drew technique both cocci and cell nuclei stained blue. However, with Gram-negative organisms the superior cytological detail and differentiation of tissue from bacteria made the Gram MGPLG technique the method of choice.

This technique should prove of use in both routine and experimental work involving the differentiation of Gram-negative organisms in tissues, particularly where low magnifications are to be used for examination.

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#### **Cytomegalic virus disease in pregnancy**

U. EACHEMPATI AND R. E. WOODS (1976).  
*Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, **47**, 615

#### **HL-A antigens in Behçet's disease**

J. D. O'DUFFY, H. F. TASWELL AND  
L. R. ELVEBACK (1976).  
*Journal of Rheumatology*, **3**, 1

#### **Sexually transmissible diseases**

T. N. EVANS (1976). *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, **125**, 116

#### **Three years' experience in a sexual problems clinic**

J. BANCROFT AND L. COLES (1976).  
*British Medical Journal*, **1**, 1575

#### **The doctor and the homosexual**

F. C. DONNELLY (1976).  
*The New Zealand Medical Journal*, **83**, 322

## Book Review

### **Sexually Transmitted Diseases.**

Edited by R. D. Catterall and C. S. Nicol, 1976. Pp. 274. 53 tables, 34 figs. Academic Press, London (£7.80)

The book comprises the proceedings of the Anglo-American conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases held at the Royal Society of Medicine in June 1975. The coverage is wide and provided by experts in their fields from both sides of the Atlantic. Epidemiology and health education are given as much prominence as clinical and laboratory aspects. All of the articles are readable and enhanced by the discussion at the end of each section. There is much of interest but particularly impressive is the prophetic paper by Falkow's group on the possibility of plasmid-mediated penicillin resistance in the gonococcus. The account of gonococcal serotypes by Gotschlich is obviously of great potential importance. After an excellent review of genital herpetic infection by Nahmias, Roizman and Frenkel analyse critically the association between genital herpes and cervical carcinoma. All should read this article.

Anyone interested in the sexually transmitted diseases will want to read this book. By present-day standards the price is not excessive.

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