

- IV. Anaerobic Infections—Disease Syndromes  
 V. Disease Syndromes (continued) and In Vitro Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing  
 VI. Clinical Results of Treatment and Summaries

Each chapter is preceded by an abstract which highlights the salient features of the subject. The bibliographies are fairly extensive and the summaries in the last chapter nicely collate the outstanding clinical and bacteriologic aspects of the Conference.

The contents of this book are most germane to clinical and research microbiologists; much of the information is too technical and specialized for the general physician reader. For the dermatologist *per se*, there is a chapter dealing with dermatologic anaerobic infections including acne. Other areas of interest to the cutaneous practitioner include actinomycosis, clostridial infections, and antibiotic therapy.

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**Coping with Food Allergy**, Claude A. Frazier, M.D. Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co., New York, 1974. (334 pp, \$9.95)

This recent volume was written to give laymen, particularly parents of allergic children, some background and methods to cope with the ever increasing problem of food allergies. It is designed to give the reader insight into the problem of management from both the physician's and patient's point of view and, therefore, will aid the physician as well as the patient in caring for this disorder.

The book is divided into several sections; the first is an overall view of allergy in general, and then the author progresses to some characteristics of food allergy. The next two chapters deal with the hazards inherent in food allergy. These include explanations of why people on occasion will have gastrointestinal symptoms and, at other times, systemic symptoms such as urticaria, bronchospasm, etc., or a combination of these factors depending on where the reaction occurs. A chapter is also included to help the patient identify the offending agent.

A general overview is given to foods that are considered to be allergenic and the most common foods encountered in difficult patients. The author then proceeds to classify the common offenders, i.e., milk, eggs, and cereals. One outstanding chapter deals with food additives, and the author emphasizes the various materials such as colorings and preservatives used as food constituents. The major portion of the book is then devoted to menus

and recipes. An outstanding aspect is the summation of each chapter which highlights the important facts in the area it covers.

The author wisely cautions the reader that skin testing for foods is notoriously unreliable and one can really make the diagnosis only by ingestion followed by recurrence of symptoms. He also cautions and emphasizes that the patient will very likely have little success with sublingual or injection hyposensitization therapy for food allergies. There are some areas in the book which are repetitive, some of them wisely so, such as "Always Read the Label." The book could have been shortened somewhat, but the author has very nicely presented the picture of food allergies in a very readable, understandable, and scientifically accurate form.

The book is recommended for the patient with allergies or parents who have a child with food allergies. It would be of great help for these people to understand the problem; in this way the physician, whether he be an allergist or not, will be able to cope more sensibly with the problem, which has been dealt with very authoritatively and sensibly by Dr. Frazier but in other texts has been viewed as some mystical entity that requires hundreds of skin tests, weeks and years of hyposensitization, and absurd diets.

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**Immunological Aspects of Skin Diseases**, Lionel Fry and P. P. Seah (Eds.). John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Publishers, New York, Toronto, 1974. (289 pp, \$19.75)

This slender volume appears as a welcome addition to the dermatologic literature and is an admirable distillation of an explosive literature that is being generated on certain disease entities in which both the skin and the immune system are involved. With the aid of seven contributors, the two editors have wisely limited their scope to a consideration of pemphigus and pemphigoid, dermatitis herpetiformis, lupus erythematosus, malignant melanoma, vasculitis, and eczema. For the most part, the literature is carefully reviewed, resulting in a terse synthesis from current knowledge derived both from the authors' own work as well as from the work of others. References are extensive and current; there is the usual variation in quality, style, and emphasis in individual chapters expected in a book written by multiple authors.

This volume beautifully illustrates some of the areas of controversy that exist in certain of the entities discussed. Fortunately, the writers address

themselves to such exciting areas as the role of circulating autoantibodies in both pemphigoid and pemphigus and of IgE in atopic eczematous dermatitis, the precise nature of the relation between the cutaneous and systemic forms of lupus erythematosus, and the influence of diet on the cutaneous component in dermatitis herpetiformis. On the other hand, concepts that must be interpreted with caution include the aforementioned improvement in the cutaneous component of dermatitis herpetiformis in patients on long-term gluten restriction, a fascinating observation that must be confirmed by other investigators. The described contribution of the complement system in the production of the skin lesions of dermatitis herpetiformis is misleading inasmuch as the deposition of C3 without C1q is not firm evidence of activation of the alternative pathway; however, the unmentioned work of Provost and Tomasi showing deposition of properdin, factor B, and C3 without C1q or C4 suggests that this indeed may be one mechanism involved. Perhaps not everyone would agree that the term lymphocyte-mediated vasculitis is appropriate for such entities as contact eczematous dermatitis and leprosy.

Regrettably, the clinicopathologic studies on the

three forms of melanoma by Mihm et al are not mentioned in the discussion of malignant melanoma inasmuch as there may be unrecognized differences in immunologic events in these three forms. Finally, the immunofluorescence techniques discussed in detail by Sams in the first chapter are needlessly repeated in later chapters albeit in an abbreviated form.

This volume clearly embraces both dermatology and related immunological aspects with a consideration of fundamental mechanisms to achieve an integrated work that is requisite reading for clinician, investigator, and house officer. Although this book primarily is intended for the dermatologist, all individuals concerned with the interface of immunology and dermatology should be interested in it.

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#### Books Received

The following book has been received and will be reviewed in a subsequent issue:

*Microbiology of Human Skin*, W. C. Nobel, Ph.D., and Dorothy A. Somerville, Ph.D. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1974.