

regimens. As a matter of principle, the responsibilities are attributed to the programme provider on social grounds. Various strategies to enforce compliance involve direct supervision at the outset of therapy and special advice is given on the management of those patients who have failed therapy or who are HIV infected. The management of drug supply, based on forecasting, financing, procurement and distribution is presented to be in need of improved planning, collaboration, dissemination of information and monitoring of supplies. Preventive therapy, which has been used successfully in the United States is described in detail by Rick O'Brien. However, this approach cannot be applied in countries with low TB incidence where BCG is used, because the infected persons cannot be identified by tuberculin skin testing and it was never considered as a viable option for TB endemic countries. In reference to current consideration for HIV infected persons, the discussant Alwyn Mwinga spelled out several convincing reasons why preventive therapy is 'neither feasible nor desirable' in countries experiencing the most serious impact of AIDS associated TB.

Although only 5% of all TB cases occur in industrialized countries, one cannot avoid the feeling that it was the increasing incidence in advanced countries (by 18% in the USA between 1985 and 1991) and the HIV-related outbreak of multidrug resistant TB in New York, which precipitated the current outcry of concern about the global situation. This book contains justification for seeking a 3-6 fold increase of support for TB control programmes from the World Bank. The pharmaceutical industry is complimented on the development of first generation of drugs and attracted to play 'a key role in translating research efforts into new tools for disease control'. In view of the expensive nature of evaluation of new drugs for TB and given the uncertain profits from TB therapeutics, drug companies should be commended. (Glaxo announced that it will provide £10 million at the conference.)

My conclusions from this book are that the escalated spread of TB in relatively small sections of the population in advanced countries has led to much greater awareness of the ever existing plight of people in developing countries. It has been suggested that existing health interventions may succeed after all, if given greater political support than that which has existed over the past 40 years. The remedy is to be achieved with extra finance from existing governmental budgets and from international bodies, such as the World Bank and by improving the efficiency at which the available finance is used by implementing Styblo's control strategy. Nevertheless, I suppose that scientists working in the tuberculosis field should feel optimistic that an extra slice of finance for research may lead to radically improved means for combating the disease. In view of the specialist nature of exploratory research in TB, it may have been prudent for the editors to leave that aspect to other research orientated publications. Finally, I can recommend that the book should be read as widely as the editor Keith McAdam has intended, which includes biomedical scientists, paramedical and social workers, traditional healers, shopkeepers, pharmacists, teachers, pastors and the press. This book will make the reader think; it certainly stimulated me. This is much to its merit, irrespective of one's selective personal conclusions.

JURAJ IVANYI

*Tuberculosis & Related Infections Unit,
Royal Postgraduate Medical School,
London W12 0NN*

Human Virology. L. COLLIER. Oxford University Press; 1993. £18.50.

I have been waiting for this book! It has filled a big gap in the market. *Human Virology* is pitched at the right level for medical and dental students. However, microbiology students might require additional reference books in order to study some areas in more depth.

The book is divided into four parts: 'General Principles' covers structure, classification, replication, propagation in the laboratory, pathogenesis, immunity and epidemiology and is useful for preclinical students. 'Specific Infections' covers all the viruses encountered in temperate climates, together with exotic infections, arbovirus infections and unconventional aspects such as prions. 'Specific Syndromes' includes chapters on virus diseases of the CNS, intrauterine and perinatal infections and virus infections in immunocompromised patients. 'Practical Aspects' includes laboratory diagnosis, control of virus diseases and antiviral chemotherapy. The last three parts would be required by clinical students.

The book is very readable and well presented, with clear subheadings and useful tables. The reminders at the end of each chapter highlight the main points to be committed to memory. Although a lot of effort has gone into producing attractive figures many are difficult to interpret as reference to the text is required. I would prefer them to be labelled.

Although this book is a little out of date in parts, due to its wide coverage of a fast moving field, I have no hesitation in recommending it to undergraduate students and their teachers.

JENNIFER M. BEST
UMDS,
St Thomas's Hospital,
London SE1 7EH