

"viscerotomy" service, which collected specimens of liver tissue from all persons dying of a disease that might have been yellow fever; serological studies on large groups of inhabitants and on captured monkeys were also of immense value for the study of the distribution of the disease. The information thus provided gradually unfolded the picture of "jungle yellow fever" carried by elusive forest mosquitoes, while howler monkeys of Brazil and Panama were the sources of the virus. This fascinating story of epidemiological detection was well matched by the outstanding success of the 17D yellow fever vaccine, for prevention of the disease.

Another chapter gives the dramatic description of the invasion of Brazil and of lower Egypt by the African *Anopheles gambiae*, the subsequent epidemics of malaria and the eventual eradication of the vector from these territories. This was the origin of the notion of global eradication of malaria—a concept taken up by the World Health Organization in the following years.

The last chapters are devoted to the assertion of the belief in the feasibility of eradication of malaria, yaws, tuberculosis and smallpox from the face of the Earth. While stressing the present achievements, the book reflects Dr Soper's profession of faith that the ultimate goal of elimination of many communicable diseases can be attained by a determined and specific attack on the cycle of transmission of these infections. He feels that there is no compelling need for a previous build-up of general health infrastructure and that much can be done by medical science, quite independently of the preliminary social and economic development of underprivileged tropical countries afflicted by all the well known symptoms of the vicious circle of poverty, ignorance and disease.

Many experienced specialists of tropical public health will disagree with this oversimplified persuasion so forcibly expressed. The present consensus of opinion is that the integrated improvement of all aspects of community life offers the best chances for permanent advance of developing countries. The pursuit of some well defined health aspects should be seen not as a goal itself but as a part of the general process of orderly growth of the system of national health determined by socio-economic priorities. This should not be interpreted that economics are the key to any progress. Such an extreme view, reflected by the recent Pearson report on aid to developing countries, virtually ignored the health problems of tropical areas and created some concern among those who are aware of the present situation in the "third world".

Nobody who reads this anthology from the writings of an inspiring, courageous and often ruthless pioneer of preventive medicine on an intercontinental scale will fail to be impressed by the scope of his life-work, by his perseverance and by his vision. Those who know and admire Dr Soper not only as a foremost scientist and medical administrator but also as one of the "most unforgettable characters they have met", may regret the absence of a full page plate with his likeness; the small photograph on the back page of the blurb will not stand much wear in a book that will certainly go through many hands and will appeal to the specialist and to a general reader interested in modern trends of global epidemiology.

L. J. BRUCE-CHWATT

CHIRAL BIOLOGY

Molecular Asymmetry in Biology

By Ronald Bentley. Vol. 2. Pp. xiii + 566. (Molecular Biology: an International Series of Monographs and Textbooks.) (Academic: New York and London, June 1970.) 257s.

THIS second volume of *Molecular Asymmetry in Biology* is as good as the first (see review in *Nature*, 226, 566; 1970). It deals with two major topics: stereospecificity

in some important biological processes (four chapters, 344 pp.), and the determination of the configurations of some biologically important compounds (two chapters, 182 pp.). To treat either topic exhaustively would be to cover a large part of natural product chemistry and biochemistry; the particular groups considered in each case are well chosen and thoroughly discussed.

The four chapters on stereospecificity in biological processes cover dehydrogenations, reduction and related reactions; condensations with acyl-coenzyme A derivatives and hydro-lyase reactions; a variety of other reactions important in intermediary metabolism; and biosynthesis and utilization of isoprenoid compounds.

The two chapters on determination of absolute configuration deal with general types of biologically important compounds (carbohydrates, amino-acids, hydroxy-acids, lipids, nucleosides, vitamins, and the like), and a wide variety of isoprenoid and related compounds.

The book is illustrated with many good formulae and diagrams, as was the first volume, and the references are thorough. In a useful preliminary note on nomenclature, the author draws attention to some important unpublished proposals by Hanson and Hirschmann, and corrects an error in stereochemical designation in the first volume (pp. 56 and 214, [4-²H]-mevalonic acid).

The two volumes of Dr Bentley's work together form an admirable introduction to steric aspects of biochemistry, and will point the way to much further interesting work.

W. KLYNE

HANDLE WITH CARE

Infections and Immunosuppression in Subhuman Primates

By H. Balner and W. I. B. Beveridge. (Proceedings of the International Symposium, Rijswijk, December 1969, organized jointly by WHO and the Radiobiological Institute, TNO, Netherlands.) Pp. 258. (Munksgaard: Copenhagen, 1970.) 120 D.Kr.

THE increasing use of subhuman primates in medical and biological research has inevitably led to problems, which were admirably summarized in 1966 by L. V. Meléndez and R. D. Hunt: "... the ecological niches of man and animal cross with increasing frequency and this undoubtedly will create or uncover new disease problems which are also important... this is a potential threat both for human and animal health". Eleven months ago a timely international symposium was held at Rijswijk, The Netherlands, to discuss the problem and control of communicable diseases in subhuman primates and the prevention of the transfer of disease between man and animals and between animals in captivity. The lowering of resistance of the host by immunosuppressive therapy and the limitations and complications of immunosuppression were also considered in a series of authoritative papers.

It is an onerous task to single out particular contributions from this collection of uniformly excellent papers, which include reviews of tuberculosis, pathogenic enteric bacteria, group B arboviruses, simian pox viruses and more exotic infections such as green monkey disease (Marburg virus), monkey B virus, the outbreak of "monkeypox" in the Rotterdam zoo and descriptions of the epizootics caused by simian haemorrhagic fever virus. The problem of "spontaneous" infections in cell cultures derived from simian tissues, stress and latent pathogens, parasitic opportunism, infections with herpes viruses and the increase in their virulence when infecting species other than their natural host, such as the oncogenicity of *H. saimiri* and squirrel monkey heart isolate (SMHI), are important topics which are also discussed. A masterly account of spontaneous or induced hepatitis in subhuman primates is provided by F. Deinhardt, whose studies of hepatitis in marmosets form one of the