

## District laboratory practice in tropical countries

by Monica Cheesbrough. Published by Tropical Health Technology, 1998, 464 pages, normal price £33.30, price in developing countries £10.90. Available from 14 Bevills Close, Doddington, March, Cambridgeshire PE15 0TT, United Kingdom. Tel.: 44 (0)1354 740825; fax: 44 (0)1354 740013; e-mail: thtbooks@tht.ndirect.co.uk.

## Analytical chemistry

edited by R. Kellner, J.-M. Mermet, M. Otto, H. M. Widmer. Published by Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH, Weinheim, Germany, 1998, 916 pages.

*District laboratory practice in tropical countries* takes into account advances in laboratory technology and management that have occurred since the textbook *Medical laboratory manual for tropical countries*, 2nd ed., was published in 1987. The new title reflects the current situation of laboratories in developing countries. The author has made a considerable effort to assess the appropriateness of new technologies for these laboratories and to update the material accordingly.

The author reviews the problems faced by laboratories in developing countries, outlining simple practical solutions wherever possible. Clear and easily understood information is provided on the clinical biochemistry of laboratory analytes and the biology of parasites. The book also covers the management of laboratory services at the peripheral and district level, laboratory quality assurance, maintenance of equipment, and the local preparation of reagents.

This book is probably the most comprehensive source of information available today to those who work in or need to know about laboratory services in developing countries. It can

be recommended as a basic document for laboratory technicians, technologists, and medical doctors at all levels in developing countries, as well as managers and suppliers of laboratory equipment and products.

*Analytical chemistry* is a compendium of modern analytical chemistry which includes:

- information on quality assurance and quality control in analytical chemistry;
- principles of chemical analysis, covering chromatographic procedures, catalytic reactions, biosensors, immunoassays and other areas;
- principles of physical analysis, in such areas as infrared spectroscopy, nuclear magnetic resonance, mass spectroscopy, and X-ray diffraction;
- statistical procedures for the validation of test results;
- techniques of highest metrological order for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of chemical compounds.

This book emphasizes the entire process of analysis, including strategy and control, rather than confining itself to a description of analytical procedures. The explanations are clear, simple and easy to follow, providing a valuable source of information for students and for others who are less familiar with modern chemical analysis but want to find out more about it. It is a book that should be on the shelves of all analytical chemistry and biochemistry professionals, including those who work in the areas of clinical chemistry, laboratory medicine, pharmaceutical chemistry, environmental chemistry, food chemistry and forensic chemistry. ■

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