posed by AIDS and HIV infection. It appears that all
the participants at the meeting have submitted papers,
covering the clinical, epidemiological, immunological,
and therapeutic approaches to AIDS in Europe.

This book is essentially a meeting report and, by
necessity, publication has been delayed until one year
after the meeting. The papers presented have either
been published in scientific journals in the meanwhile
or have sunk without trace in the interim. There was an
International Meeting in Paris in 1986, which has
largely bypassed much of the message of this book.

On a positive note, the epidemiology from Europe
presents some data from the more obscure corners:
erosopositivity to HIV in Athenian prostitutes; a 12-
year history of serology in Switzerland; epidemiology
of AIDS in Milan, etc. However, these data are, in
many cases, 18 months out of date, which for such a
fast-moving field is unacceptable.

I found tables to be misplaced (Fig 1, p75 belongs on
p19, and vice versa), and I was surprised to see myself
as second author on a paper I had never seen, and
whose contents I found a poor reflection of my own
work. If this is an indication of the other
contributions, I worry about the general reliability of
this book.

I feel this book contains information which is
obtainable elsewhere. Clinicians will need more detail,
epidemiologists need to be in the present, and
immunologists require more rigorous justification of
results.

It seems tragic that the EEC should be spending
research money on publishing books of this sort when
the same money would be better spent in more
regular—unpublished—meetings. There are enough
publications on AIDS already.

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The geography of non-infectious disease MSR Hutt and
DP Burkitt (Pp 164; figs. £20-00) Oxford: Oxford

In their introduction, Professor Hutt and Dr Burkitt
state that this book is intended to fill a gap in the
literature on the geographical distribution and causes
of non-infectious disease, particularly in the non-
Western countries of the world. We are reminded that
if it can be demonstrated that there are differences in
the incidence or prevalence of a particular disease
between population groups living in different
geographical areas, socioeconomic circumstances, or
cultural backgrounds, and that these observations
cannot be explained by diagnostic failure or other bias
in the information, it is possible to formulate a
hypothesis to explain these differences. Herein lies this
book’s value to a wide range of readers who are
interested in the aetiology of non-infectious diseases in
the United Kingdom and the direction in which to
plan preventive strategies, as well as to overseas
readers. Clinicians as well as community physicians
and others interested in the wider aspects of health
promotion and medical geographers will find interest
in this well presented volume which I found eminently
readable. Within its 164 pages it gives a wealth of
useful information. The distribution of a variety of
non-infectious diseases is described in different
populations throughout the world. Each geographical
description is followed by an aetiological hypothesis
which is compatible with the genetic and/or
environmental background of the populations living in
particular regions or countries. Thirteen of the
chapters treat the non-infectious diseases classified by
anatomical system. Pathological as well as clinical
manifestations of the diseases are included. One was
left with three clear messages after reading this book.
Firstly, that although it is generally accepted that most
non-infectious diseases are multi-factorial in
aetiology, there are two main influences which are
responsible for the Western pattern of disease; these
are cigarette smoking and the Western diet. Secondly,
as elucidated by Sir Richard Doll in his foreword to
this book, it may require nothing more abstruse than
an ability to examine in an unprejudiced way the
features of a society (or social groups within a society)
in which the disease has characteristically occurred, to
discover enough about the causation of a disease to
enable it to be avoided in the future. Thirdly, that the
geographical distribution of disease is one of the more
fascinating aspects of medical science, as illustrated by
the essential inclusion in any comprehensive work on
the subject of Burkitt’s lymphoma, named, of course,
after one of this book’s co-authors.

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Epidemiology of malignant melanoma. Recent Results

The literature on epidemiology of melanoma is large
and growing fast; thus there is a useful place for a book
offering up-to-date reviews in the subject. This 169-
page volume arose from a meeting in Vancouver in
1984 (but includes many 1985 references) and contains