It seems churlish to mention one minor imperfection. For some reason the photographs throughout the text are greatly inferior to those on the front of the dust cover.

M. L. N. WILLOUGHBY

Major Problems in Childhood Cancer Edited by Carl Pochedly and Thomas F. Necheles. (Pp. xii + 379; illustrated. \$14.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

In the United States, the paediatrician often fulfils the function of the British general practitioner. This book has been written to explain the current situation in childhood cancer to this type of doctor. Its title is misleading. It is a general review of the subject and not a very good one. The standard is uneven: the approach is not consistent. The book starts badly with a trite chapter on leukaemia: there are only three references after 1970 and no hint of the remarkable improvement in survival which is now being achieved. Another author suggests that Gitlow's screening test for catecholamines could be adopted as an 'office procedure'; but children with cancer are best treated in centres. More up-to-date information about cancer in children can be found in other books, and I do not think that readers of this Journal will find the book helpful.

D. I. K. EVANS

Intermediary Metabolism of the Liver Edited by Henry Brown and David F. Hardwick. (Pp. xiii + 187; illustrated. \$12.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

The need for more specific and sensitive tests for the assessment of liver function is well known and it was with this object in mind that the symposium reported in this monograph was called. The seven essays do not indicate how this goal can be achieved but provide, for the general reader, well presented reviews on various aspects of intermediary metabolism in the liver, both in the experimental animal and in patients with hepatic failure. Dr Monro gives an up-to-date account of protein metabolism with special reference to the role of the polysome. Dr Reckneger and Dr Glende indicate how studies of lipid peroxidation in carbon tetrachloride poisoning may provide a fruitful approach

to the investigation of acute toxic liver injury. Dr Hardwick suggests that ATP deficiency may be a precipitating factor in hepatic failure while Dr Brown discusses the possible role of ammonia and the rationale for treatment of encephalopathy with lactulose. Dr Arky reviews our current concepts regarding the regulation of carbohydrate metabolism by the liver and the significance of hypoglycaemia in the clinical situation. An evaluation of such 'heroic methods' as exchange transfusion, *ex vivo* liver perfusion, cross circulation and auxiliary liver transplantation is provided by Dr Slapak and Dr Trey. There is also an exciting report by Dr Starzl on marker studies with serum haptoglobin and group specific component of α -globulin following orthoptic liver transplantation which demonstrate that liver homografts retain their metabolic specificity after transfer to a new host. This opens up the possibility that liver-based metabolic disorders could be treated by transplantation and indeed this has been done for Wilson's disease and phenylketonuria.

BARBARA H. BILLING

Endocrine and Non-endocrine Hormone Producing Tumors (Pp. viii + 430; illustrated. £9.50.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. Distributed in UK and Europe by Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd, London. 1973.

An impressive range of papers, presented at the 16th Annual Clinical Conference on Cancer in 1971, comprise this book. The topics are related to the clinical, diagnostic, therapeutic, and pathological aspects of endocrine tumours in general and of some 'inappropriate' hormone-producing tumours and their related syndromes.

The articles are succinct, sometimes overconcise, well illustrated, and are often accompanied by appropriate case histories. Some of the chapters, such as the one dealing with hypercalcaemia and malignant disease, are excellent and those devoted to the radiology and photostaining of endocrine tumours are most interesting and of great value alongside their other clinical and laboratory aspects. It is unfortunate in a review volume of this nature that some of the authors have limited their presentations to personal experience and recollections only and that there is not a section devoted to the fundamental biomedical aspects of ectopic hormone production.

In all, however, this is a valuable book which will serve as a good introduction to the subject for those with an initial interest in the many facets of endocrinology.

A. MUNRO NEVILLE

Methods for the Analysis of Human Chromosome Aberrations Edited by K. E. Buckton and H. J. Evans. (Pp. 44; illustrated. £1.50.) World Health Organization, 1973. Obtainable from HMSO, London.

In 1966 the World Health Organization initiated a study of the use of chromosomal aberrations in monitoring for the effects of radiation and other environmental mutagens in man. Methods were standardized and comparisons made between laboratories. Experts congregated in Greece in November 1971 and drafted a monograph which was made available for revision to participating laboratories. The resulting manual is commendably brief, accurate, readable, and well illustrated. The techniques of lymphocyte culture are discussed and the aberrations to be scored clearly described. The data from several laboratories have been pooled and graphs prepared of the dicentric and ring aberrations as a function of radiation dose. The monograph is essential for anyone who is embarking on dose estimations of radiation by the lymphocyte culture technique.

SYLVIA D. LAWLER

Urinary Tract Infection Edited by William Brumfitt and A. W. Asscher. (Pp. xiv + 258; illustrated. £5.00.) London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press (Oxford Medical Publications). 1973.

This is the report of the proceedings of the 2nd National Symposium on Urinary Tract Infections held in April 1972, four years after the first symposium on the subject. The chairman, Professor Paul B. Beeson, and many of the organizing committee were involved in arranging both symposia and the change in emphasis given to various aspects of the subject in this report indicates the progress that has been made during the intervening years.

The first sections deal with screening for bacteriuria and the natural history of infection in various populations. The number of different screening methods described illustrates that none is foolproof and in assessing their results some workers