Book reviews

"priming" (whereby a preliminary dose of an agent allows a second large dose to be sustained with rapid recovery) is not mentioned. With that reservation this is a useful compendium review of a clinically important topic.

HEM KAY


The Hemophilias is No 5 in a series of Methods in Hematology, all of which are edited by men eminent in their fields of interest. The book sets out to update the knowledge of clinicians and research workers in the growing points of classic haemophilia, Christmas and von Willebrand's disease. The author of each chapter has been hand picked with the result that the volume produced is remarkably up to date both from the clinical and laboratory point of view. The areas covered include assay of factors VIII, IX and von Willebrand's factors, both biological and immunoradiometric, and this leads into two excellent chapters describing carrier detection and prenatal diagnosis.

This volume is essential for all haematologists in training and for those looking after patients and their families with coagulation disorders.

CD FORBES


During his 37 years in Buenos Aires Dr Schajowicz has studied about 6000 primary bone tumours and tumour-like lesions in his laboratory which is the headquarters of the Latin American Registry of Bone Tumours. This comprehensive book is the personal expression of his long experience. An introductory chapter is concerned chiefly with the handling of tissues and the methods of diagnosis with some emphasis on the use of aspiration biopsy. This is followed by sections on different types of tumour headed, where available, by the WHO definition of each lesion. The author then covers in detail, critically comparing others' experience with his own, the standard features of incidence, age, sex, site, and so on. The radiographic and histological features are fully described and the range of appearances profusely illustrated by well chosen and well reproduced clinical and slab radiographs and photomicrographs. Little would be lost, aside perhaps from a welcome reduction in price, by cutting down the number of colour plates. Sections on biochemistry, histochemistry, and electron microscopy are included where they have something to offer in relation to differential diagnosis and the principles of treatment are discussed. The varying opinions on controversial points such as the subdivisions of osteosarcoma and the grading of giant cell tumours are evaluated and on each occasion the author clearly states his own views. Tumours of the jaws and metastatic carcinomas are not included. Surprisingly the sometimes difficult differential diagnosis of carcinoma from fibrosarcoma or angiosarcoma is not mentioned, nor is the reader alerted to look for a permissive growth pattern in attempting to distinguish low-grade malignant from benign cartilaginous tumours. Some of the suggested changes in terminology such as multicellular hematic bone cyst for aneurysmal bone cyst and histiocytic xanthogranuloma for metaphyseal fibrous defect are unlikely to be accepted readily. References, though not all included in the text, are copious and helpfully arranged under subheadings at the end of each chapter. Typographical errors are irritantly numerous. These however are minor criticisms of a wide-ranging and stimulating book which should be enjoyed by every pathologist with an interest in bone tumours and as a reference book for affluent reporting rooms.

MARY CATTO


The proceedings of this Symposium provide an up-to-date record of progress in the field of haemopoietic progenitor cells as studied by in vitro culture techniques. These techniques have become very sophisticated and the numerous factors which stimulate or inhibit the proliferation and differentiation of various normal and malignant cell populations is clearly expounded. The identification of substances that "force" leukaemic cells to differentiate provides the possibility of an attractive new approach to therapy.

A start has been made in applying molecular biological techniques in this field but as yet no important contribution seems to have been made. The proceedings are incomplete in that the important inhibitory effects of lactoferrin and isoferriptins are not dealt with adequately. Furthermore, rather surprisingly, almost no consideration is given to the functioning of haemopoiesis in vivo. For example what feedback controls operate in the regulation of haemopoiesis and under what circumstances. Which cell populations are involved and to what extent is proliferation or differentiation affected? It appears that more attention has been given to what occurs in in vitro cultures than what goes on in animals, which after all is where it all happens.

NM BLACKETT


One of the less attractive features of the publishing scene in the last few years has been the appearance in large numbers of expensive volumes in which the proceedings of international congresses or symposia are published. Sometimes these emerge with commendable speed; on this occasion it has taken just over 18 months for the proceedings of the Eleventh International Congress of Angiology to see the light of day. A wide range of topics, some of them being rather recondite, has been covered and the majority of the authors are acknowledged experts in their own fields of study. However, the book has a curiously inflexible and egalitarian format, none of the papers being more than 2–3 pages in length. In fact, what we are provided with here is a collection of 285 illustrated abstracts in hard covers and it is not easy to see who would be attracted to buy this volume at a price of $US 87.40.

N WOOLF


This volume forms part of a projected series of five volumes all dealing with various aspects of the inflammatory process and its sequelae. At the current rate of exchange the present volume carries a UK price-tag in excess of £75 so that the prospective purchasers of the whole series will have to be plump in the pocket.

The current volume is somewhat heterogeneous in character dealing as it does both with fundamental biological aspects of healing and repair on the one
Tumors and Tumorlike Lesions of Bone and Joints

Mary Catto

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