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

have carried out white cell excretion tests. Several contributions deal with the consequences of bacteriuria in terms of symptoms and renal damage in different types of patient. This section is particularly useful in defining those populations in which routine screening for bacteriuria is likely to justify the time and expense which it involves.

The chapters on the immunoglobulins in the urinary tract and the cellular immune response in pyelonephritis report new work in this field and there is a beautiful illustrated account of the detection of various antibody-forming cells in tissues of rats with experimentally induced pyelonephritis. The response to challenge in unimmunized rats is compared with that of rats immunized by various routes. Frequency and dysuria form the subject of three papers and the 'urethral syndrome' is discussed in some detail.

The last section is devoted to treatment. Since the last symposium several new antibacterial preparations have become available and the choice of agent, together with the most effective regime of treatment in various types of urinary tract infection, forms the larger part of this section and reflects the difficulties in the management of these conditions.

The editors have summarized very briefly the main points in the general discussion. This is helpful and some of the questions which arise when one reads the relevant chapter are answered here. Cautionary notes are sounded about the interpretation of some of the conclusions drawn.

This was clearly a very worthwhile symposium which has been well reported. There is a full list of references after each chapter which makes the book a comprehensive report of the work in this field until 1972. It is not expensive and will make an important addition to the library of all who deal with urinary tract infections both in the laboratory, the clinic, or at the bedside; but it is a pity it took so long to be published.

M. PATRICIA JEVONS

Clinical Laboratory Medicine: Application of Laboratory Data 2nd ed. By Richard Ravel. (Pp. 485; illustrated. £5.00.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. Distributed in UK and Europe by Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd, London. 1973.

First published in 1969 this book has

been reprinted three times and now appears as a second edition. It covers clinical pathology in 455 pages, devoting approximately 97 pages to haematology, 43 to microbiology, and the remainder to clinical chemistry. An appendix has a useful collection of information extending from the effects of age on laboratory tests to a *cri de coeur* for the correct collection of specimens. The author is at pains to impress on his clinical colleagues the importance of ordering tests in a sensible fashion and the esoteric are recorded in a separate chapter towards the end of the book, presumably in the hope that these may be differentiated from everyday procedures. The limitations and levels of accuracy of various investigations are also mentioned.

In the preface it is stated that one of the aims of the book is to cover the subject with brevity and succinctness and there is no doubt that the author has succeeded admirably. Inevitably there are areas which have suffered from this approach. The breathless dash through renal disease reveals the book at its worst, particularly as much of the information is out of date, possibly because of the author's conservative attitude to renal biopsy, although again the attempt to spare the patient expense and discomfort is a worthwhile aim.

For the specialist in the various branches of clinical pathology the book is obviously inadequate. The tyro pathologist would probably find it useful, particularly as key references are provided at the end of each chapter. Housemen would profit by having it close to hand and students, looking for a succinct account of clinical pathology, would do well to read it through carefully.

W. SCARRATT

Goodale's Clinical Interpretation of Laboratory Tests 7th ed. By Frances K. Widman. (Pp. x + 502; illustrated. £6.25.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications (Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Co.) 1973.

To attempt a book of this kind, covering such a wide range as haematology, microbiology, and biochemistry, is almost an impossibility. It is not quite clear from the preface for whom this volume is intended. It strikes the reviewer as not specialized enough for the laboratory worker and, in places, too specialized for the general practitioner. The author says that technical and nursing personnel will find this book useful; in this country we

do not expect such interpretation of them.

Such a vast subject necessarily produces uneven treatment. The author's inclination is perhaps towards biochemistry and endocrinology and I, as a pathologist, found these chapters good reading. Others lack essential information, particularly if directed to doctors 'in the usual office or hospital practice'. For instance, pregnancy anaemia is omitted from the chapter on megaloblastic anaemia, but appears in a separate chapter on pregnancy, where B₁₂ deficiency is surprisingly also mentioned as a cause. In the chapter on the diagnosis of macrocytic anaemia, a long description of the Schilling test is given, although this is surely not routine procedure in diagnosis. The chapter on leukaemia is the briefest of all, in spite of much important work recently published. Although anticoagulation as a method of treatment is mentioned under two headings, no guidance is given about results and their interpretation. Similarly, cerebrospinal fluid is given a chapter to itself, but the more detailed discussion of microorganisms and culture appears under microbiology. Only the excellent index tells the reader to look under different headings. It is also a pity that the useful chapter on normal values omits the new international units.

However, many chapters are very useful, as is clearly the opinion of many American doctors, because the book is now in its seventh edition.

K. S. RODAN

1973 Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology Edited by Frank A. Carone (Pathology) and Rex B. Conn (Clinical Pathology). (Pp. 480; illustrated. £7.50.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. Distributed in UK and Europe by Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd, London. 1973.

The mixture as before, complete with useful editorial comments throughout. Packed with information so diverse as to be quite unreviewable.

H. E. M. KIRBY