inclusions. Surprisingly, however, there is no mention of methods for the APUD system, exfoliative cytology or immunohistology. The author writes well and is obviously experienced but his choice of technique (on this side of the Atlantic at least) will not receive universal approbation, and—a more serious deficiency—the techniques are not consistently linked with an attempted rationale. For example, the van Gieson mechanism was exhaustively discussed whereas that for the methyl green-pyronin and Jones' hexamine silver techniques was not given at all! In an otherwise explicit description of dyes and their reactions there is no mention of current thinking which implicates hydrogen bonding and van der Waals forces reactions.

This is a small book with a page size of 9 × 6 inches, and as the author is trying to cover the whole subject, the information contained therein is of a superficial nature

only. This fact, allied to its often rather dated approach to the subject, is likely to result in a limited appeal, certainly in Britain, but I suspect also in the country for which it was primarily intended.

H. COOK

Development of Therapeutic Agents for Sickle Cell Disease. INSERM Symposium No. 9. Proceedings of the International Meeting on Development of Therapeutic Agents for Sickle Cell Disease, Paris, 19-21 July 1978. Edited by J. Rosa, Y. Beuzard, and J. Hercules. (Pp. xviii + 262; illustrated; \$44.00.) Amsterdam, New York, Oxford: North-Holland Publishing Company. 1979.

The early trials of urea and cyanate as therapeutic agents for the prevention of sickling were clinically disappointing but they stimulated much research into the mechanism of sickling and its prevention.

Improved techniques for the study of HbS polymerisation were also developed to allow new pharmacological agents to be tested *in vitro* before clinical trial evaluation.

This book, which consists of the papers presented at a satellite symposium of the XVII International Congress of Hematology held in Paris in 1978, gives a detailed account of these new techniques and of the biochemistry and pharmacology of antisickling compounds. The text is highly specialised but laboratory scientists will be interested in techniques such as laser and x-ray diffractometry, the kinetics of haemoglobin S gelation, and the study of the sickle-cell membrane. The scientist involved in clinical trials will find invaluable data on the potential *in vivo* and extracorporeal use of the newer antisickling compounds. Recommended for the specialist and the research worker.

J. STUART