a fair prospect of satisfaction if they have a taste for intricate chemical details or the rarefied atmosphere of the biological side of cancer research.

There is a rather scrappy index which makes no attempt to list author's names, and some of the illustrations could do with better quality paper, but tables and diagrams are well produced and the book can be handled with ease. But why, in Heaven's name, were the illustrations numbered consecutively in each separate chapter?

ROY CAMERON

CANCER: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DELAY By Robert Sutherland. (Pp. ix + 206 + Index. 30s.) London: Butterworth. 1960.

In this book, Dr. Sutherland covers a much wider field than its title might suggest. The work comprises a comprehensive review and a critical examination of the literature dealing with the many factors which influence the course of malignant disease. After a short introductory chapter and a consideration of the difficulties inherent in 'grading' and 'staging', the author discusses prognostic variables dependent on (1) tumour characteristics, (2) host characteristics, and (3) environment. The final chapter deals with the relationship between the duration of a tumour (before treatment) and prognosis. While conceding the tremendous importance of factors at present outside our control and admitting that benefit from earlier treatment appears to be modest, Dr. Sutherland shows that some lives are undoubtedly saved or prolonged by early diagnosis and therapy. He therefore rightly concludes that 'since earlier treatment may mean life instead of death for some, we must do everything we can to ensure that it is given to all.'

Dr. Sutherland has produced a most valuable review and his book contains much to interest clinicians, pathologists, and research workers. A useful additional feature is the summary at the end of each chapter.

N. F. C. GOWING

SECTION CUTTING IN MICROSCOPY By H. F. Steedman. (Pp. viii + 172; 70 figures. 20s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

This book is by a zoologist whose interest in serial sectioning and the handling of difficult tissues led him to pursue the use of the ester waxes. Dr. Steedman's own work on these waxes is now widely quoted, and for special purposes their use should certainly be known to pathologists; the book is therefore one to have in any laboratory blessed with a keen technician. Some of the information will seem beside the point; we cannot feed our patients pre-operatively with the blotting paper he gives to the worms he means to study, but there is much of interest in the whole field of microtomy. It is unfortunate that a sharper distinction is not made between Celloidin, a trade name for a nitrocellulose of moderately high viscosity, and the modern low viscosity nitrocelluloses; nor is it made clear that the latter have a horny hardness when dry which demands the addition of high boiling-point solvents (plasticizers) such as dibutyl phthalate (misspelt throughout the book). His attitude to the polyethylene glycol waxes is unduly nihilistic in

view of some of the results demonstrated by British dental pathologists, but elsewhere, whether it be about embedding in polymerized synthetic resins or frozen section techniques, there is an attention to detail and an enthusiasm that is pleasantly infectious. One odd little chapter advocates an independent professorial department of microtomy; maybe we need such a thing but a good technician and this book will at least do some good now.

ALAN LENDRUM

EINFÜHRUNG IN DIE BLUTMORPHOLOGIE (Introduction to the Morphology of Blood) By D. Schreiber. (Pp. 69; 27 colour plates. DM 17.30.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1960.

This is a book which, though published in 1960, does not reach the accepted standards of modern practises in haematology. There are far better atlases, published in earlier part of the century, which gave as much useful information. The first pages on the preparation of smears from marrow are poor, and many of the illustrations are bizarre. These atlases can only be useful if they show real and accurate reproductions of actual marrow smears, rather than highly selective drawings. The only value of this book is that it is written in three languages—German, Russian, and English—and this does give the beginner a glimpse of German and Russian scientific language.

A. GORDON SIGNY

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE; ANNUAL REVIEWS 1961. (Pp. xi + 342; illustrated. 40s.) Published for the British Postgraduate Medical Federation by The Athlone Press, London. 1961.

This is the latest volume in the series which used to be called 'Lectures on the scientific basis of medicine'. In addition to a new title a further change is the inclusion of an index which covers all the earlier volumes and which is to be continued in future issues as a cumulative index to the whole series.

This annual selection of lectures arranged by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation has already gained a secure place in the regard of many people with a lively interest in the development of medical science, and the present volume maintains the standard of its predecessors. It will go far to enlighten those of us who, although we may be aware that important things have been happening in this field or in that, have but the haziest idea of what those advances have been. The variety of subjects reviewed is wide indeed and to mention a few, there are papers by Dame Janet Vaughan on skeletal damage by bone-seeking isotopes, by A. Isaacs on interferon, by C. H. Gray on non-pancreatic aspects of diabetes, by W. R. S. Doll on epidemiological methods in leukaemia research, by E. M. Vaughan Williams on the action of certain drugs on the heart, and by R. H. S. Thompson on the biochemistry of multiple sclerosis.

It is difficult to select certain of these for specific mention and the items chosen will probably represent either a particular interest on the part of the reviewer or a particular awareness of his ignorance and a conse-