Book reviews

HAEMATOLOGY IN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT By M. Maizels, T. A. J. Pranker, and J. D. M. Richards (Pp. 336. 70s.) London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cassell Ltd. 1968.

There is no doubt that good haematological practice requires coordination between the clinician and the laboratory haematologist. There is, at times, an unfortunate cleavage between the two approaches, and with this in mind the authors of the book have set out to cover both aspects in an integrated manner. It is intended for undergraduate students and postgraduates who are not specialists in this field. The first sections deal with the development and function of blood cells, and factors of blood formation and destruction. This is followed by sections on the use of radioisotopes in haematology, haematological diagnosis, classification of anaemias, and by chapters on the various blood diseases. The chapter on the classification of anaemia is a brief one, essentially consisting of tabulations of aetiological, morphological and physiological classifications. In subsequent chapters each disease is systematically described (aetiology, pathology, clinical features, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis). A chapter on 'Coagulation of blood' includes a clear and concise description of the clotting mechanism and of haemorrhagic diseases. There are also short chapters on blood groups and blood transfusion and a chapter on haematological diagnosis. In this last chapter the principles of the laboratory tests used in diagnosis are described, and the authors do not attempt to give details of technique. Examination of the peripheral blood is mentioned but briefly.

To cover the practice of haematology comprehensively in approximately 300 pages of text is an achievement for which the authors should be complimented. Of necessity it means that it is not suitable for anyone wishing to study haematology in depth. It can, however, be recommended to the undergraduate student who will find especial pleasure in the well set out classifications and the fact that a good sense of proportion has been maintained with little space devoted to unusual and rare conditions.

There are some errors of omission. Thus, for example, Table VII shows the role of vitamin B₁₂ and folic acid on nucleoprotein synthesis, based on work which is now several years old, without reference to current views. There are errors of transcription, *eg*, the values for plasma value and red cell mass are incorrectly given on p. 64; reference to Fig. 16 is incorrectly stated on p. 66; reference to Fig. 7 on p. 104 is confusing, as it is not clear whether the figure illustrates a patient with 'refractory anaemia with hyperplastic marrow' or to aplastic anaemia with hypoplastic marrow. There are some views which may, perhaps, be considered unorthodox. Thus, iron-deficiency anaemia is classified as an anaemia of ineffective erythropoiesis, the Haldane method for haemoglobinometry is recommended to the clinician as a method of choice. There are three colour plates which attempt to illustrate various blood cells. Undoubtedly they must have been a significant factor in the costing of the book.

They are of very poor quality, serve no purpose, and can but only detract from the standard of the book as a whole.

S. M. LEWIS

PRACTICAL HAEMATOLOGY 4th ed. By J. V. Dacie and S. M. Lewis. (Pp. 568; 104 figures. 50s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1968.

This well known standard British textbook on practical haematology has reappeared after a lapse of five years in its fourth edition and it was inevitable that there should be considerable changes in the material. The authors have brought the practical side of haematology up to date and include discussion on automation in blood counting which has made such a difference to the volume of work a routine laboratory can undertake. The whole range of laboratory investigations is covered: radioisotope methods for the assessment of red cell production and destruction are included in a clear and well written chapter. Throughout the book the brief discussions are of great value, thus giving the reason for the test and the interpretation of the results. The book has been brought right up to date in such things as the treatment and prevention of haemolytic disease of the newborn, investigation of megaloblastic anaemias, automation, including automated antibody screening, enzyme estimations, monospot slide tests for screening of infected mononucleosis, electrophoresis, and many other newer techniques.

The book maintains the old format and is well presented so that any technique can be quickly found. There are a number of new illustrations, particularly of red cell abnormalities. It is good to see them all presented at the same magnification throughout and showing obvious, easily recognized changes. Perhaps the only one which is not at all clear is Fig. 7.20 which would not convince me of the presence of Howell Jolly bodies (compare Fig. 5.4 demonstrating Heinz bodies). It is interesting to see that no colour plates were thought to be necessary and they clearly are not, as all the changes described are adequately demonstrated in black and white.

This book has been the standard book of practical haematology in Britain since the first edition. It was first entirely a bench book but has now outgrown this function and is not only a practical book of haematology but an excellent reference book for techniques which are available for the investigation of difficult cases. Perhaps its use, therefore, has extended from the original intentions of the authors as a textbook for laboratory technicians and pathologists in training and is now the best available textbook of haematology we have. There is no doubt it will occupy a permanent place in every haematology laboratory in Britain and in many countries abroad.

A. GORDON SIGNY

HODGKIN'S DISEASE By D. Molander and G. Pack. (Pp. 212; illustrated. \$15.00) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

This book on Hodgkin's disease is written by authors