Book reviews

International Histological Classification of Tumours No. 7 Histological Typing of Salivary Gland Tumours By A. C. Thackray in collaboration with L. H. Sobin and pathologists in 12 countries. (Pp. 28; 46 figures in colour. Book and set of 46 transparencies: £5.50, \$14.00; book only: £1.40, \$3.50.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1972. Obtainable from HM Stationery Office, London.

This work, the seventh of a series with the imprimatur of the World Health Organization, has as its object the presentation of an internationally agreed classification of salivary gland tumours accompanied by photographs and transparencies to enable cancer workers in all parts of the world 'to compare their findings and . . . facilitate collaboration among them'. It is to be stressed that it is not meant to serve as a textbook though in less than a dozen pages enough practical information is presented as to make it the finest short account of the subject currently available. The text, presentation, and style cannot be faulted.

The sureness of touch falters in the selection of coloured photomicrographs. Is it really necessary in a work addressed to mature users to illustrate an epidermoid carcinoma (fig 38) or an undifferentiated carcinoma (fig 39) even for the sake of completeness or in the interests of promoting international conformity of opinion on the diagnosis! No less than eight of 46 figures illustrate mucopidermoid tumours. More considered selection could have reasonably reduced the number to three leaving five in hand—for what? The reviewer has pondered this question and concluded that the aims of the book would not be furthered by the addition of a handful of illustrations of special stains or curious metastases. The criticism is that these extra illustrations are unnecessary.

In addition to the public to which the work is primarily addressed, general surgeons and histologists in training will be rewarded by a study of the book and the set of accompanying transparencies. Radiotherapists, who are on the whole notoriously weak on the subject of tumour pathology, will obtain a key to the comprehension of basic histological reporting. To the reviewer it is a godsend. No longer will he need to

prepare a slide collection for his talk on tumours of the salivary glands. This one will satisfy the most critical audience.

A. LEVENE

Atherogenesis: Initiating Factors Ciba Foundation Symposium 12 (new series). Edited by Ruth Porter and Julie Knight. (Pp. viii + 288; illustrated. Dfl. 37.00 (about US\$13.00)). Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company. 1973.

This slim volume records the papers and discussions at a Ciba Foundation symposium on atherogenesis which was intended to concentrate attention on 'fundamental physiological studies, because we are seeking mechanisms . . . and on the early stages of the development of the condition and its precursors'. But in fact we have the mixture much as before. C. W. M. Adams discusses tissue changes and lipid entry into the atheroma; Elspeth Smith and Rosalind Slater relate lipid and lipoprotein content of intimal lesions to the morphological features, and J. M. Bailey describes the regulation of the cholesterol content of intimal cells. Physical factors facilitating lipid accumulation are covered by D. L. Fry, while P.-H. Iverius expounds an interesting hypothesis on the role of glycosaminoglycans in forming a filter to entrap lipoprotein molecules. These and five more papers of a mainly chemical nature comprise a volume of contributions typifying the intense efforts being made to find some new line to advance our knowledge of how early atherosclerotic lesions develop. This publication will be of interest mainly to those actively working in this important field of research.

THEO CRAWFORD

1972 Year Book of Cancer Compiled and edited by Randolph Lee Clark, Russell W. Cumley, and Joan E. McCay. (Pp. 515; illustrated; £7.50.) Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago. 1973.

The current Year Book follows the familiar pattern of its 15 predecessors. Drawn largely from English-language journals for the period 1970-1971, its contents cover an enormous field and reflect adequately enough the various trends in clinical and laboratory aspects of neoplastic disease. Most of the abstracts form coherent and readable accounts, and the brief editorial comments are often illuminating. The book provides a

useful source of information on many contemporary aspects of cancer.

RICHARD CARTE

Drug Therapy of Cancer By G. Brule, S. J. Eckhardt, T. C. Hall, and A. Winkler. (Pp. 163; 2 figures; 6 tables. £2.00.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1973. Obtainable through HM Stationery Office, London.

Cancer Chemotherapy 2nd ed. Medical Outline Series. By Edward S. Greenwald. (Pp. 463; illustrated. \$10.00.) Flushing New York: Medical Examination Publishing Co. Inc. 1973.

In a rapidly expanding subject like cancer chemotherapy, the author of a textbook has to strike a balance between the production of a theoretical treatise, without the necessary practical details that make effective treatment possible, and the writing of a cook book which contains the appropriate recipes, but neglects the principles of treatment and chemistry and pharmacology of the drugs employed. His other problem is to produce something which is up to date. This probably means that textbooks on chemotherapy need to be short and, therefore, up to date with the emphasis on the principles of treatment plus an extensive bibliography which enables the clinician to obtain specific details of modern treatment protocols from recent publications. On this basis these two new books on cancer chemotherapy make an interesting contrast. Both are short and easily digestible, but in most other respects they are very different from one another.

In the introduction to 'Drug therapy of cancer' the authors say that their aim is to compile a synopsis which may prove suitable for both undergraduate and postgraduate education, and particularly for clinicians who wish to introduce chemotherapy into their practices. If this is their intention they have failed. The book is divided into three parts. The first deals with the principles of drug treatment and the agents employed while the second and third parts are about the treatment of leukaemia and lymphomas and the treatment of solid tumours respectively. The first section is very good indeed, and could serve as a model for any short textbook on this subject. However, the book falls down badly in the second two sections on the clinical management of individual tumours, mainly because insufficient detail is given and the references are totally inadequate.