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.

For example, no doctor faced with the management of a patient with acute leukaemia would end up knowing what to do if he consulted this book. Details of treatment are sketchy, and there are virtually no references to recent important work which he could consult. Similarly in the section on Hodgkin's disease, much is made of single agent treatment which is now virtually a thing of the past, but the MOPP protocol is only mentioned in passing and no reference to it is given. The section on solid tumours is rather better than that on leukaemia and lymphoma, but again any clinician referring to it would be hard put to end up knowing what to do about some of the tumours which are described.

In contrast, Greenwald's book on 'Cancer chemotherapy' is an excellent short description of the state of the art at present. It is really quite remarkable for the amount of information which it contains and the bibliography is extensive and up to date. The physician consulting this book should have no difficulty in obtaining enough information adequately to manage most malignancies with chemotherapy. It is probably the best short book on the subject for the occasional chemotherapist, and is highly recommended.

T. J. MCELWAIN

Viral Hepatitis Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 512. (Pp. 52. 40p.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1973. Obtainable in the U.K. from HM Stationery Office, London.

This report of a WHO scientific group provides a general review of recent progress in hepatitis research within the compass of only 50 pages. The style is clear if sometimes didactic and the views expressed are middle of the road.

Most of the report is concerned with serum hepatitis and Australia antigen. The clinical section, though brief, is well balanced but the description of technical methods is too superficial to be of practical use. The model code of laboratory practice is sensible but it is surprising to see no mention of safety cabinets for handling high-risk specimens. The description of hepatitis in relation to blood transfusion and renal dialysis units is elementary but provides a good introduction to the problems. On the other hand the list of suggestions for further

research is prosaic and already somewhat dated.

Like most of the series, this Technical Report can be highly recommended as an initial foundation for further reading, but it is too limited to satisfy the need of the practising clinical pathologist for a *vade mecum* in this rapidly moving field.

YVONNE COSSART

Glossary of Haematological and Serological Terms By P. Samson. (Pp. 118; 3 figures; 10 tables. £1.73.) London: Butterworth Group. 1972.

The aim of this book is to provide a glossary of medical laboratory terms for newcomers to the profession, students, and ONC candidates. The author believes that there is a need for a quick source of reference, 'more detailed than a dictionary', in this field.

The definitions vary in length from one line to more than four pages, and their quality varies over a similar range. Some basic terms are inadequately defined. Target cells are described, but not their association with iron-deficiency anaemia. More serious failings include an inaccurate definition of pernicious anaemia, 'caused by lack of intrinsic factor or vitamin B₁₂'. Intrinsic factor, on the other hand, is necessary for the binding of extrinsic factors (vitamin B₁₂ and folic acid) ... and its passage from the small intestine to the blood stream and thence to the liver'. Bilirubin, a 'disintegration' product of haemoglobin, is metabolized in a somewhat bizarre fashion, with no mention of glucuronide conjugation in the liver.

A few basic terms such as antigen and antibody have been omitted, with some other rather strange inclusions. 'Baghdad spring anaemia', for those interested, is an allergic haemolytic anaemia confined to the Middle East!

At a price of £1.73, and considering the wealth of good haematology texts available, I cannot see this book as a useful addition.

C. S. SIEFF

The Management of Musculo-Skeletal Problems in the Haemophilias By Robert B. Duthie, James M. Matthews, Charles R. Rizza, and William M. Steel. Foreword by Rosemary Biggs. (Pp. xiii + 179; illustrated. £5.00.) Oxford, London,

Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1972.

This monograph is excellent and beautifully produced. It is based on experience gained by the authors at the Nuffield Orthopaedic and Oxford Haemophilia Centre. As it is the first comprehensive review on this subject since the treatment of joint and muscle haemorrhage with factor concentrates became a feasible proposition, it provides a welcome bridge between haematologist and orthopaedic surgeon. After an introduction to blood coagulation and a review of haemophilia in general, each major aspect of musculo-skeletal haemorrhage is analysed with reference to incidence, pathology, clinical features, and management. The final chapter on reconstructive surgery illustrates not only the advances which have been achieved by the Oxford team but some of the appalling deformities encountered. Many of these, one hopes, will in the future be prevented by prompt treatment. Let us hope, also, that sufficient therapeutic material will be available to meet the need and that the cost of this will not be too prohibitive.

KATHRINE M. DORMAN

Basic Immunogenetics By H. Hugh Fudenberg, J. R. L. Pink, Daniel P. Stites, and An-Chuan Wang. (Pp. vii + 214; illustrated. £2.20.) New York, London, Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1973.

The authors have selected inherited human differences, the genetic polymorphisms, which they consider to be of particular importance. The choice of topics reflects the authors' own research interests. The subjects covered are immunoglobulin structure and evolution, the genetics of the immunoglobulin molecules, antibody variability, the cellular and genetic aspects of the immune response and the immunogenetics of the human blood groups. This is quite a heavy meal in 214 pages and multiple authorship has led to a variability in the digestibility of the text. On the credit side, the figures are commendable, being clear and well annotated. The chapters dealing with the immunoglobulins are particularly successful and it is useful to have all the current information coordinated. It would appear that, although the conclusion that only constant and variable regions of the molecule coded for