

into a morphological mould must remain open to question. A major criticism is the positive identification of the haemopoietic stem cell with the cell-producing colonies in agar culture. It should be stressed that this is the belief of one group of workers only and is not supported by the findings of others.

A number of contributors deal with the control of haemopoiesis, covering factors influencing cell growth *in vitro* and their possible part in the regulatory mechanism; the kinetics of the stem cell compartment under conditions of stress and the recovery patterns of mature cell production. These papers make interesting reading and probably consider most of the admitted possibilities in this area.

As the most popular candidate for the haemopoietic stem cell has some of the characteristics of a lymphocyte, there is the inevitable discussion of the role of stem cells in immunity.

On the whole, this book deals with rather esoteric aspects of haemopoietic stem cells. Possible applications of theory and techniques are relegated to one paragraph of one paper and this is a very serious defect indeed. For those working in the field, the book may be of some interest, especially as an index of the literature, as the list of references is exhaustive. For the clinician or haematologist, its fundamental nature must render it of little value.

IAN D. C. DOUGLAS

Recent Advances in Thrombosis Edited by L. Poller. (Pp. ix + 227; illustrated. £5.50.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1973.

For whom are the 'Recent Advances' series written? For the man working in one corner of thrombosis this is an excellent review of many other aspects of thrombosis updated to early 1972. Clinical pathologists in general will find lots of interest but may not stay the course. Clinicians faced with a patient with thrombosis will find little help. And this is a criticism of the state of the art rather than the composition of this book. Thrombosis is an urgent everyday disease; we are told that there are 32 000 cases of postphlebotic leg ulcers in Sweden (pop 8013696) yet there is surprisingly little new to offer the clinician. This is in part due to the enormous difficulty of finding out exactly what goes on in real life and

the mechanisms involved: it is easier and more fashionable to study cyclic AMP in platelets or the details of fibrinogen chemistry, for example, which are well covered.

As in most multiple-author books the presentation is irritatingly varied; a broad review follows a summary of an author's personal views and work. The best chapters I thought were an excellent introduction by Owren, a discussion on platelets by the Dutch team in Leuven which offers understanding and hope but little immediate advice on therapy. Prentice and McNicol take a moderately pessimistic view of thrombolysis, and that after 15 years' work! The Fletchers enthusiastically advocate the 'exotic methodologies' of column chromatography (but don't discuss the immunology or treatment of DIC) There are chapters filling in the background on pathology and epidemiology and one, far too short, on clinical diagnosis. Inevitably there are gaps: heparin minidose, surely a most promising line, is hardly mentioned, but perhaps this counts as a recent advance in coagulation. Nevertheless a valuable book for some of us and Churchill Livingstone have done a good job.

J. R. O'BRIEN

Pulmonary Thromboembolism Edited by Kenneth M. Moser and Myron Stein. (Pp. x + 355; illustrated. £11.90.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. Distributed in the UK and Europe by Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1973.

This is a report of a symposium held in La Jolla, California, in May 1971, under the sponsorship of the American College of Chest Physicians and the University of California. An international group of scientists, all well known in the field, contribute short statements which together form a complete review of both venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism in regard to their pathology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment. Each contribution is supported by a short reference list. Most of the sections include a summary of what was obviously a lively discussion.

As a whole the book represents a useful summary of much of the topic but its value is limited on three counts. First, all the information is available elsewhere, and at least one symposium

held later was published in 1972. Secondly, in a rapidly advancing field there is remarkably little on the prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism, surely the most important aspect. Finally, despite the high standard of presentation and the excellent reproduction of some radiographs, the price is far in excess of its value.

PETER T. FLUTE

Essays in Fundamental Immunology 1 Edited by Ivan Roitt. (Pp. 66; illustrated. £1.50.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, and Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1973.

Many of those not actively engaged in immunology groan beneath the burden of attempting to keep abreast of its complexities. The essays offered in this new series should help not only the dedicated amateur but should also prove good reading for the professional. The four essays in the first edition range from consideration of the nature of the antibody-combining site by Leslie and Cohen through a study of tolerance by Nossal which, in his own words, should form a sturdy springboard for future adventures to a thought-provoking essay by Playfair on a cellular basis for autoimmunity. Finally, Mitchison considers his new-found interest—tumour immunology. As the preface claims, it is lively and readable—four short stories in the classical tradition.

A. J. S. DAVIES