

properties of cancer cells *in vitro* as well as the endocrine topics of glycogen storage disease and the pathophysiology of glucagon secretion and triiodothyronine production.

The texts are concise and well presented and illustrated. The quality of the electron micrographs is especially commendable. While not agreeing with all that is presented, particularly in the section dealing with depressed immunological reactivity and cancer, this is an excellent monograph to be highly recommended not only to the practising clinical laboratory physician but also the research scientist.

A. MUNRO NEVILLE

International Histological Classification of Tumours of Domestic Animals. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Volume 50, No. 1-2. (Pp. 142; illustrated; Sw. fr. 18.) Geneva: WHO. 1974. (Available through HMSO, London).

Since the publication of Cotchin's *Neoplasms of the Domesticated Mammals* in 1956 there has been no comparable bench book on this subject. The present work provides without waste of print or illustration a compact guide to the interpretation and comprehension of those tumours and tumour-like conditions which are to be encountered in the dog, cat, and farm mammalia. Publication was not delayed until all the body sites had their tumours identified and described, categorized, and provided with an agreed nomenclature. The present volume deals with lung, thyroid gland, urinary bladder, nervous system, eye, and adnexa selected from the uncommon sites of tumour formation and the haemopoietic and lymphoid system, testes, skin, soft tissues, and mammary glands as examples of the common tumour prone sites, at least in some of the species.

To the growing numbers of medical pathologists, mainly outside the London area, who are called on by their veterinary friends to offer opinions on biopsy and necropsy material from domesticated animals the present volume will prove quite indispensable, to the research worker on any aspect of neoplasia, a valuable source book. Professor W. I. B. Beveridge, the guiding hand behind the venture, is to be congratulated on the result, a scholarly yet practical work which will undoubtedly have a beneficial influence on comparative studies.

A. LEVENE

Isolation of Salmonellas—Public Health Laboratory Service Monograph Series No. 8. By R. W. S. Harvey and T. H. Price (Pp. 52; illustrated; £1.50.) London: HMSO; 1974.

This monograph contains the essence of over 20 years' experience of successful salmonella isolation. The authors give details of many media and a comprehensive account of how these may be used to isolate salmonellas from a variety of sources. This booklet is compulsory reading for laboratory workers who are concerned with salmonella isolation, and nearly all will find something that they will want to try for themselves.

D. M. JONES

Pathogenic Processes in Parasitic Infections, edited by Angela E. R. Taylor and R. Muller (Pp. vii + 107; illustrated: £4.50.) Oxford: London: Edinburgh and Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1975.

During the last 10 years the application of immunological techniques to the study of parasitic diseases has transformed our knowledge of the pathogenesis of these disorders. At the same time these studies have enhanced our knowledge of basic immunological reactions. This 13th volume, based on symposia of the British Society of Parasitology, reflects the increasing interest in the variable and complex reaction of the host to infection, and the role of genetic factors in these variations is stressed. For the general reader, the chapters on immunodeficiency and parasites, the immunopathology of malaria, and mechanisms of disease in leishmaniasis are of particular interest.

This book can be recommended for anyone who is interested in the pathogenesis of disease and, in particular, host-parasite relationships.

M. S. R. HUTT

Medical Oncology: Medical Aspects of Malignant Disease. Edited by K. D. Bagshawe. (Pp. xii + 588; illustrated; £13.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1975.

There has long been a need for a concise and comprehensive book on medical oncology. It is a subject in which very rapid advances are continuing to be made. Bagshawe has collected together chapters on a wide ranging selection of topics which must be of interest to both general medical and specialist readers.

The book is most valuable in those chapters devoted to general and diagnostic aspects of cancer. However, the section on treatment of specific cancers is unfortunately already partly out of date and can be regarded as of only general interest, rather than as an aid to specific therapy. This is not the fault of the authors but a reflection on the rapidity with which this subject is changing.

The many chapters include ones on the genetics, immunology, and growth of tumours—together with others on haematological, metabolic neurological, and dermatological manifestations. The diagnostic chapters cover in a wider ranging manner the conventional techniques of arteriography, lymphography, thermography, and isotope scanning, together with a useful review on immunological diagnostic methods. The chapters on therapy include one on 'Terminal Care' by Cicely Saunders, which should be read by all who work in this field. It is a model review of the topic and is a fitting conclusion to a most useful book.

N. M. BLEEHEEN

Lecture Notes on Clinical Chemistry, By L. G. Whitby, I. W. Percy-Robb, and A. F. Smith. (Pp. xii + 427; illustrated: £4.25.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1975.

The art of getting a quart, or should I say a litre, into a pint pot does not get easier with time. Nevertheless full marks to Professor Whitby and his colleagues for trying. They have attempted, in just over 400 pages of pocket-book-size and easy-to-read type, to impart sufficient information on biochemistry and physiology to make the work output of a well-appointed clinical biochemistry laboratory intelligible. Their intended audience of medical students wishing to satisfy the final MB examiners, on the one hand, and of practising clinicians with an interest in chemical pathology, on the other, will find this an eminently readable, up-to-date, and reliable source of information.

The authors' approach to the subject is traditional, but SI units are used throughout. No space has been wasted on technical details. Nor, in the main, are the biochemically interesting but exceedingly rare diseases, which clinical investigators find so fascinating but which the average doctor never sees, given undue attention.

Lecture Notes on Clinical Chemistry is a good book worthy of purchase but it

has to compete with several already well-established books of similar size and nature which are considerably cheaper.

V. MARKS

Developments in Biological Standardization, Vol 27. International Symposium on Purity of Human Plasma Proteins. Edited by R. H. Regamey, I. Joo, and W. Hennessen. (Pp. x + 274; 57 figs; 89 tables; £10.90.) Basel: Karger. 1974.

This volume is an interesting, informative, and up-to-date presentation of papers read at one of the periodical meetings on biological standardization. It is divided into reports on seven sessions. Four sessions deal with purities of various plasma protein fractions and preparations. Two are devoted to purification and production techniques, and one contains up-to-date and useful information on methodology and assay, as well as interpretation particularly in respect of immunoglobulins. One chapter is devoted to the problem of Australia antigens in plasma fractionation and the use of plasma derivatives. Topics of current interest contain information regarding antilymphocyte sera. I think this volume would be a useful item on the shelves of workers interested in this particular field.

J. KOHN

New Approaches to the Identification of Micro-organisms. Edited by Carl-Göran Heden and Tibor Illeni. (Pp. xxvi + 466; illustrated; £10.30.) New York, Chichester, Sydney, and Toronto: Wiley, 1975.

This is an account of a symposium held in Stockholm in June 1973, sponsored by UNESCO, WHO, and the International Organization for Biotechnology and Bio-engineering.

The papers read in this symposium fall into four sections. There is a section on automation in microbiology, one on the use of computers in dealing with microbiological data, one on computer analysis of epidemiological data, and a section dealing with simplified tests in microbiology. The latter contains papers on rapid diagnostic methods, chiefly in relation to *Enterobacteriaceae*, such as the Enterotube, Pathotec, Auxotab, and API systems, and also descriptions of certain multi-inoculation devices and miniaturized methods favoured by the authors. The general bacteriologist might find something of interest to him in this sec-

tion and also in the section on epidemiological surveillance which describes computer-assisted approaches to dealing with data derived from laboratory and field studies.

The remainder of the book deals mainly with automation in the microbiological laboratory and with computer-assisted identification of microorganisms and virus-infected cells, and is more of interest to the specialist in these fields. Complicated automatic equipment is described for inoculation, colony scanning, diffusion tests, and identification of metabolic reactions by colorimetry. Identification of microorganisms by electrical impedance curves, heat curves (microcalorimetry), gas-chromatography, pyrolysis and mass spectrometry is discussed. It is not suggested that any of these methods has as yet reached a stage of development such as to make them suitable for general use. They do, however, indicate present lines of investigation and the possible shape of things to come.

W. J. RYAN

The Mammalian Kidney: Biological Structure and Function 5. By D. B. Moffat. (Pp. viii + 263; illustrated; £9.00.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1975.

Professor Moffat and, incidentally, the editors of the 'Biological Structure and Function' series, are to be congratulated on this monograph on *The Mammalian Kidney*. It provides a critical and up-to-date synthesis of current views on a very complex subject, and everybody with an interest in renal disease will enjoy it and find it indispensable.

A major virtue of this monograph is its clarity. Moffat, with his wide experience in the field, has been able to write a well-balanced review, readable in that it is selective and yet clearly representative of the world literature on the kidney. This has been achieved by the omission of data of an empirical nature, for example, in cytochemistry, where so many published observations have no obvious functional significance. A particular virtue, too, of this monograph, is the careful and critical analysis of the experimental methods used in renal investigations. In short, it admirably complements the clinical and pathological textbooks written respectively by de Wardener and Heptinstall. The three make a triad of which anglophone medicine should be extremely proud. I

only wish I had had access to three such books over 30 years ago.

J. C. SLOPER