

**A Companion to Medical Studies Volume 3 Parts 1 and 2 Medicine, Surgery, Systemic Pathology, Obstetrics, Psychiatry, Paediatrics, and Community Medicine** Edited by R. Passmore and J. S. Robson. (Pp. Pt 1: xxii + 1278; + index; Pt 2: xxii + 1155 + index; illustrated. Cloth: £11.50 each part; limp: £8.00 each part.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1974.

The two parts of Volume 3 of *A Companion to Medical Studies* together weigh over 5 kilograms but considering their subject matter—medicine, surgery, systemic pathology, obstetrics, psychiatry, paediatrics, and community medicine—this is scarcely surprising. The book is aimed fair and square at the student who, reasonably enough, would like to possess something comprehensive as a standby for reference. Reactions from a sample of students were favourable; they liked its easy style, praised the index, and found no major criticisms. They were also enthusiastic about its social orientation—chapters on 'The population problem and family planning', on 'Local health services', 'Screening for disease', and 'The care of the dying' are not found in every textbook of medicine, and the editors are to be congratulated on their depth of perspective. The mathematical treatment in 'A logical analysis of medicine' is, however, less appealing. Other good points are the well chosen illustrations and the insertion of adequate references for further reading.

It is, of course, possible to find errors from the trivial misspelling of 'rheoviruses' (the cause of diarrhoea) to the misleading statement that the cure rate for Wilms' tumour is only 5%. Luckily such errors seem to be rare and, in compensation, we are reminded that Reed-Sternberg cells were first described by Greenfield in Edinburgh in 1878—of course! In short one does not need to be a student or a graduate of Edinburgh to appreciate this excellent production.

H. E. M. KAY

**The Peripheral Blood Film** 2nd ed. By Trevor A. Harper. (Pp. xi + 309; illustrated. £5.00.) London: Butterworth Group. 1974.

Dr Harper's book on blood cell morphology enters its second edition showing a considerable increase in size and an even steeper rise in cost. A great deal of data is compressed into its pages, often in semitabular form, but, since this is all available

in standard texts, its justification is presumably that it presents information relevant to morphology in a conveniently readable and succinct manner.

On the whole, this objective is achieved: starting with an account of the preparation and staining of blood films, the reader is taken rapidly through the development and morphology of normal blood cells with brief, but appropriately selected sections on physiological topics, such as erythropoiesis and its relation to iron metabolism. The various chapters on abnormal blood cell morphology are reasonably comprehensive, though the sections on leukaemia are, perhaps, rather brief in relation to the rest of the book. There are a few minor errors: for example, the LAP score (p. 13) is not always reduced in acute myeloid leukaemia, and reticulocytopenia is not invariably found in sideroblastic anaemia (p. 242). Many of the lists in the second part of the book are useful: an intriguing section is the 'guide to laboratory diagnosis' recommending tests to be performed in conjunction with each abnormal blood film. However, the reviewer felt that, on reaching the 'hypochromic microcyte-macro-ovalocytotic' film, the time had come to leave the laboratory bench and re-examine the patient!

Unfortunately, the photographs are not of the same standard as the rest of the book; nevertheless, as long as the student appreciates—as Dr Harper himself recommends in his preface—that he will still need an atlas of blood cell morphology, he will find this book a convenient source of reference.

C. G. GEARY

**Future Trends in Inflammation** Edited by G. P. Velo, D. A. Willoughby, and J. P. Giroud. (Pp. xv + 480; illustrated. No price given.) Padua and London: Piccin Medical Books. 1974.

This is the proceedings of an international meeting on inflammation held in Verona in June 1973 under the auspices of the European Biological Research Association and with 48 invited participants including some well known names. The sessions and papers dealt with prostaglandins in inflammation, cellular events, mechanisms of anti-inflammatory drugs, general aspects, immunological aspects, and current trends in chronic inflammation. Much water has flowed since Menkin described 'leucotaxine', and compared even with the scene 10 years ago, there has

been a remarkable change in the amount and diversity of research on inflammation. Then the emphasis was on vascular permeability responses, so-called mediator and attempts at inhibition, but now the field has diverged remarkably with the exploding literature on the synthesis of prostaglandins, new experimental ways of provoking inflammation, new tools, the inclusion of the expanding field concerned with experimental arthritis, sensitivity reactions, involvement of immunoglobulins, the complement system, T and B lymphocytes, activation of macrophages and polymorphs, as well as a continuing search for inhibitors of various kinds. The discussion after each paper is published *verbatim*, some of it quite personal. The title is derived from the planned crystal ball gazing by the chairmen closing the different sessions, some of it quite stimulating. The book is nicely produced but it is a pity there is no index. For the marks with an interest in inflammation this book is recommended reading.

S. SEVITT

## Notice

### A Workshop on Histological Differential Diagnosis of Liver Disease

A workshop (slide seminar) on histological differential diagnosis of liver disease will be held on Wednesday, 2 July 1975 at the Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, Hampstead, London, NW3 2QG.

#### FACULTY

R. N. M. MacSween (Glasgow University); H. Popper (Mount Sinai University, New York); A. E. A. Read (Bristol University); F. Schaffner (Mount Sinai University, New York); P. J. Scheuer (Royal Free Hospital Medical School, University of London); Sheila Sherlock (Royal Free Hospital Medical School, University of London).

Registration fee (includes workbook case summaries) £20 (\$50).

A complete set of slides £20 (\$50). The workshop is limited to 100 registrants.

Applications to Professor Sheila Sherlock, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, Hampstead, London, NW3 2QG.