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Book reviews

Leucocytes: Separation, Collection and Transfusion. Edited by J. M. Goldman and R. M. Lowenthal. (Pp. xxxvi + 602; illustrated; £13-80) New York: Academic Press. 1975.

More and more centres are acquiring cell separators and are debating the relative advantages of continuous flow (IBM and AMINCO), intermittent flow (Haemonetics), or filtration leucapheresis (Leukopak) methods. For those engaged in or contemplating such work the collected papers of this International Symposium held in London in September 1974 will be a unique compendium of source material and discussion. Early chapters describe fundamental research leading to the development of the continuous flow centrifuge, and this is an eye-opener to those who have become blasé to these superficially simple machines. The use of steroids and agents such as hydroxyethyl starch to enhance granulocyte yield, and granulocyte function after the various methods of collection are next described. Donor response to leucapheresis by continuous and filtration methods is specifically dealt with.

The prime clinical application of cell separators is granulocyte transfusion in neutropenic, infected patients, usually leukaemic. Over a dozen papers are devoted to this aspect. Other applications, each the subject of a number of papers, include the place of leucapheresis in the treatment of chronic leukaemias, the collection of leukaemic blast cells for purposes of immunotherapy, the collection of colony-forming cells in canine experimental systems, the relevance of HL-A typing to the efficacy of granulocyte and platelet transfusions, the varied use of plasmapheresis in a variety of medical conditions, and the paediatric applications of cell separators.

Virtually all those workers concerned with the development and current clinical applications of cell separators took part in this symposium, which was dedicated to the memory of Bob Eisel who contributed so much to the field.

M. L. N. WILLOUGHBY

Blood Vessels. By W. J. Cliff. (Pp. ix + 214; illustrated; £10-00) London: Cambridge University Press. 1976.

This book is an account of vascular

anatomy and its relation to physiology and pathology. The lumen, endothelium, extraendothelial cells, extracellular components, and ancillary structures are treated individually, and each section follows a logical sequence of gross anatomy, light microscopy, and ultra-structure. The morphology is presented in great detail and related to function wherever possible, and a satisfying proportion of the text is devoted to pathological changes and, in particular, to atherosclerosis. The illustrations are adequate and the bibliography appears comprehensive although it is surprising to find only one reference later than 1972. The author has succeeded in presenting a large amount of information in about 150 pages without making the book difficult to read. The inclusion of references within the text is sometimes irritating, as when short sentences are divided up by several consecutive lines of names and dates. There are occasional statements which pathologists may regard as outdated, such as thoracic aneurysms usually being due to syphilis, but occasional inaccuracies must be almost inevitable where a single author attempts to survey many aspects of an important and much studied subject. These minor criticisms should not detract from the overall value of a small, readable, and instructive book which can be confidently recommended to anyone interested in vascular function or pathology.

ARIELA POMERANCE

Basic Medical Laboratory Technology. By C. J. C. Kirk, R. N. Peel, K. R. James, and Y. Kershaw. (Pp. vii + 327; illustrated; £8-00) Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1976.

The aim of this book has been to provide a working knowledge of the basic techniques used in each of the major branches of pathology. It contains a minimum of theory and is intended to supplement the practical training of technicians in the laboratory, theoretical knowledge being acquired from the Technical College courses for the Ordinary National Certificate. The book begins with excellent sections on laboratory safety, plastic and glassware, general equipment, and the microscope, which should be very useful to anyone starting work in the laboratory. The fact that microbiology (including mycology, parasitology, serology, and sterilization), histology, haematology,