

a counting bottle caused by other light-producing processes.' Surely, this 'photon monitoring' is the coincidence counting already discussed in Chap. 3? A few minor criticisms:

What is an ANS iron counter? (p. 22)

The word 'emanation' is used instead of 'emission'. (p. 2)

It is suggested (p. 3) that ^{51}Cr can be measured only through its x -ray emission, although Table XIII gives the correct information concerning the radiations emitted by this radionuclide.

This reviewer found the section on counting statistics and the use of the E^2/B criterion confusing.

In the preface, the author expressed the hope that the book will be of value as a textbook for courses, *inter alia*, in health physics; as this was one of the author's intentions, it is surprising that nothing is said about the problems of disposing of radioactive liquid scintillation solutions, where the dual hazards of radioactive contamination and fire arise.

Despite these criticisms, the book does provide a great deal of useful material in a compact and well-produced volume at a price which is modest by current standards.

N. G. TROTT

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Man, Volume 6. Sex Hormones. (Pp. 243; Sw. Fr. 18.) Volume 7. Some Anti-thyroid and Related Substances, Nitrofurans and Industrial Chemicals. (Pp. 326; Sw. Fr. 32.) Lyon: International Agency for Research on Cancer. 1974. Distributed for IARC by the World Health Organization.

The two latest additions to the series of IARC evaluations of chemical carcinogens in man deal with 16 preparations of sex hormones (Vol. 6) and with a variety of antithyroid substances, nitrofurans, and industrial chemicals (Vol. 7). The format is similar to that in the previous IARC monographs, and volumes 6 and 7 both provide useful summaries of experimental, clinical, and epidemiological literature. It is, however, obvious that current knowledge is still incomplete when it comes to evaluating human carcinogenic risks from some of the compounds considered here—particularly vinyl chloride and the sex hormones. Inevitably, the present accounts cannot be anything other than interim appraisals. Already additional information has appeared since some of

the chemicals were considered in Lyon—for example, in relation to hepatic lesions in women on oral contraceptives, and for diethylstilboestrol as a transplacental carcinogen. IARC clearly recognizes the general problem by indicating that the status of some of the chemicals evaluated in the monographs will be periodically reappraised and, where necessary, the existing published account will be revised. This is an essential activity and one which will have to continue over many years.

In volumes 2 to 6 of the IARC monographs, the compounds being evaluated have been arranged very satisfactorily according to their broad chemical characteristics; the miscellaneous collection of compounds which appears in volume 7 as 'industrial chemicals' is an imprecise and generally less satisfactory grouping. The importance of three of the chemicals discussed—benzene, vinyl chloride, and the polychlorinated biphenyls—is beyond dispute but reasons for including some of the other compounds are less apparent.

R. L. CARTER

Lymphoproliferative Diseases. Edited by D. W. Molander. (Pp. xx + 570; illustrated; \$39.50.) Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1975.

Some of the 17 chapters in this new volume entitled *Lymphoproliferative Diseases* are excellent. The compiling and editing, however, are open to criticism. The book is claimed to be 'a compilation of known facets of lymphosarcoma (sic) and related diseases', yet Hodgkin's disease is excluded, and instead there are chapters on sarcoidosis and eosinophilic granuloma. The pathological terminology used is quite inconsistent from chapter to chapter. Nevertheless we read that 'The new pathologic designations (sic) are included'. 'Also new is the new staging . . . employing the latest diagnostic methods including lymphangiography, isotopic scintigrams, etc.' This is a rather surprising remark for 1975.

The chapters of particular value include D. G. Miller's on immunological aspects of lymphoproliferative diseases, and the chapter on radiotherapy in the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas by M. Tubiana and colleagues. This latter is extremely comprehensive and up to date. Two other chapters worthy of note are on Macroglobulinaemia (M. Mannik) and Myeloma (I. Snapper and A. Kahn).

The chapter on animal lymphoma is of interest but again reflects poor editing.

The relationship of human and animal lymphomas and the experimental work possible on spontaneous animal, especially primate, lymphomas is of great relevance, and is fascinating. But why include such detail on the treatment of dog lymphoma, including 'supportive treatment', and then separate details for the therapy of each of cat, mouse, and cattle lymphoma?

The overall impression is that this is an ephemeral publication and one that is uneven, often superficial and sketchy, and in many respects already out of date. It is not of value as a reference work, and one cannot recommend it as an essential acquisition for hospital libraries. It would justify inclusion in the library of a centre dealing with lymphomas, but not as a priority.

G. P. CLEIN

Immunology of Trophoblast. Edited by R. G. Edwards, C. W. S. Howe, and M. H. Johnson. (Pp. x + 284; illustrated; £6.00.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1975.

This book is the outcome of a meeting held in 1974 at which 22 authorities, mostly British, discussed the role of the trophoblast during pregnancy, particularly in relation to the immunological puzzle of why the allogeneic fetus is not rejected. Immunization by placental antigens, immunosuppression by trophoblast products, and various aspects of immunoneutrality and immunoprotection are all gone into in depth. A major feature of the book is the unusually long and lively discussions of each paper which catch the spirit of frustrated excitement that this elusive subject always generates, and which include many provocative suggestions for further experiments. There are copious references and a good index. In the present state of knowledge, it is hard to think of a better way of treating this subject, and the two further volumes on related topics that are promised should be welcome.

J. H. L. PLAYFAIR

A Short Textbook of Haematology, 4th edition By R. B. Thompson (Pp. 387; 13 plates; £5.50.) London: Pitman Medical. 1975.

This handy paperback has reached its fourth edition within 15 years and surely needs little further commendation; it is excellent for its intended clientele—senior

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students, those reading for higher examinations, and general physicians. Nor can it be faulted on pragmatic grounds for the haematologist, since its references are recent and the guides to therapy are up-to-date and succinct.

Its attraction lies in its pocket size, and a jaundiced eye must be cast on the inevitable increase in bulk, but the publishers have kept this to a minimum. The colour plate, of megaloblasts, contributes little to learning and is, perhaps, merely a tribute to the printer's versatility that could be dispensed with.

The only serious criticism of a book which is thoroughly to be recommended is the curious lack of comment on the role of the lymphocyte in immunology: the B lymphocyte is mentioned in passing in the discussion of chronic lymphatic leukaemia but more, surely, could have been made of the brief paragraph on lymphocyte function. A book that could be a good buy for not a few pathologists whose modesty forbids them to claim haematology as their special concern.

J. L. STAFFORD

The Liver: Normal and Abnormal Functions (in two parts) Part B. Edited by Frederick F. Becker. (Pages xvi + 575-1018; illustrated; \$37.50.) New York: Marcel Dekker. 1975.

This is volume 5 of a series of monographs entitled 'The Biochemistry of Disease: A Molecular Approach to Cell Pathology'. The prospective buyer should not be misled by this description. The book contains a series of review articles, mainly on growing points in hepatology, and its subject matter ranges from molecular biology, as in the chapter on carcinogenesis by the series editor Dr. Farber and his colleagues, to practical clinical considerations, as in the chapter on liver transplantation by Drs. Groth and Starzl. The book thus resembles *Progress in Liver Diseases* in its approach.

Material not easily found in other books includes a chapter on Protracted Obstructive Jaundice in Infancy by Dr. Landing and one on Worms by Dr. Warren. The first includes a complete discussion of the difficult problems and concepts of intrahepatic biliary atresia, and the second gives a lucid summary of human parasitic liver disease. Other chapters are on viral hepatitis, hepatitis B antigen, alcoholic injury, liver failure, alpha-fetoprotein, and childhood cirrhosis. Some, such as the chapter on cirrho-

sis, fail to give more than a superficial account.

Taken as a whole, the book is likely to be a useful addition to the library of hepatologists and of research workers entering the field. It is well produced, easy to read, and brief. Illustrations are few, references abundant. Part A, not reviewed here, deals with hepatic physiology, bilirubin, drug-induced liver disease, regeneration, antiproteases, and haemochromatosis.

P. J. SCHEUER

International Symposium on Gonorrhoea. (Pp. 141; illustrated; no price given.) Ottawa: Health and Protection Branch, Health and Welfare Canada. 1975.

This booklet gives all but two of the papers read at a conference on gonorrhoea held in Ottawa in 1973 but not the discussions which followed them. Those on laboratory subjects include reviews of the use of serological tests in diagnosis, and on the possibility of developing preventive vaccines. Others present original work on the antigenic structure of surface membranes of gonococci, the application of tissue culture to studies on immunity, the genetic mechanisms underlying resistance to antibiotics, and the role of pili in the attachment of gonococci to tissue cells.

The worldwide resurgence of gonorrhoea has led to an intensification of work on the gonococcus. These papers by some leading workers provide a useful conspectus of some of the growing points of research in the field.

A. E. WILKINSON

Colour Atlas of Oral Histopathology. By E. A. Marsland and R. M. Browne. (Pp. 96; £15.00.) Aylesbury: HM + M Publishers. 1975.

As colour atlases go, this is a good one. There are 440, 8 × 5 cm colour prints, ranging from ground sections of tooth to sections of oral mucosa with pemphigus. There is about half an inch of text per photograph, and the text is largely descriptive. The standard of reproduction is good, being better than many and roughly equivalent in standard to the WHO *International Classification of Tumours*.

The book is said to be intended as a guide to dental students and as a reference collection for laboratory diagnostic practice. To the experienced histopathologist,

good quality black-and-white pictures, such as in the AFIP atlases of tumour pathology, are probably more informative than this type of colour atlas but, for the student, colour photographs may be more valuable.

It is always difficult to satisfy both students and postgraduates in one book, but this volume succeeds very well and will be useful to both general histopathologists, faced with the occasional dental and oral problem, and to candidates for the MRC Path examination.

A. C. HUNT

Advanced Medicine. Topics in Therapeutics. 1. Edited by A. M. Breckenridge. (Pp. x + 258; illustrated; £6.50.) Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical Books. 1975.

The proceedings of a symposium held in November 1974. The subjects discussed are those concerned with the drug 'explosion', drug overdosage, and changing patterns of therapeutic practice. A useful guide to the clinical pathologist who should keep up to date with the changing scene in therapeutics.

H. E. M. KAY

Gynaecological Pathology, 2nd edition. By Magnus Haines and Claude W. Taylor. (Pp. 552; 533 illustrations; £12.50.) Edinburgh, London and New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1975.

The second edition of this excellent book follows the same general pattern as the first with chapters devoted to each region of the female genital tract and to more general topics such as infections. Much of the text is identical with that of the first edition, but many references to recent work have been added. New material has been added in the sections on vulva-dystrophies, cervical metaplasia and carcinosarcoma *in situ*, uterine sarcoma, and the diagnosis and management of trophoblastic disease. The effects of oral contraceptives on the endometrium and cervix are described. Throughout the book stress is laid on difficulties in diagnosis, with particular emphasis on benign conditions which may be wrongly diagnosed as malignant tumours.

Most of the photographs are retained from the previous edition but there are a few additions and replacements. All maintain a high standard and the fields are well chosen so that the condition can