

**Progress in Respiration Research. Vol. 8: Alveolar Interstitium of the Lung. Pathological and Physiological Aspects.** Series editor H. Herzog (Basel). Volume editors Françoise Basset and Robert Georges. (Pp. viii + 245; 149 figures; 21 tables; SFr. 153; DM 145; 20% discount for individuals.) Proceedings of the International Symposium on Pulmonary Interstitium, Paris, May 1974.

Damage to the parenchyma of the lung may occur as a result of inhalation or ingestion of toxic or immunologically active substances, from passive congestion or as part of a systemic disorder. This volume reviews the resulting pathological changes in man and describes recent investigations into the mechanisms and the consequences for lung gas exchange. The 20 papers are mostly of high quality by distinguished contributors and beautifully illustrated, and the book should earn its place in specialist libraries on the lung. The discerning reader will detect the heat generated by opposing views on a number of topics including terminology, the meaning of desquamative interstitial pneumonia (DIP), the identification of cell types, and the relation of the transfer factor for carbon monoxide to lung compliance. But the account would have been more useful if an edited version of the discussion had been included. Thus private individuals should shop around; there may be better bargains elsewhere.

J. E. COTES

**Immunity and Cancer in Man: an Introduction.** Edited by A. E. Reif. (Pp. 160; illustrated; \$12.50.) New York: Marcel Dekker. 1975.

The immunotherapy of cancer is an attractive idea and, like all attractive ideas, it should be regarded with suspicion rather than embraced with enthusiasm.

This book is enthusiastic. The preface contains many questionable assumptions, and the book as a whole continues with one underlying assumption, equally questionable, that immunology holds the key to the future of cancer medicine. The contents singularly fail to provide a basis for such an assumption. Chester Southam has written an introduction which shows his characteristic love of metaphor. Only partially obscured by his extensive allusions to mountaineering is a thorough and economic review. By concentrating on clinical data Dr. Reif carefully marshals

support for the 'immunological surveillance' hypothesis, elegantly disregarding a mass of contradictory evidence. He also provides a table of human tumours ranked in order of 'antigenic strength' (whatever that may be), a most spurious misuse of inadequate data. The chapter on clinical immunotherapy by Dr. Bianco is long and evangelical and rightly fails to mention a single controlled trial showing a beneficial effect from immunotherapy. However, he also studiously avoids mentioning all the negative trials which have been reported and is too concerned with outmoded concepts, such as blocking antibody.

Dr. Order then emphasizes the damage done to immune responses by irradiation therapy. The fact that radical irradiation can be curative (eg, seminoma of the testis, Hodgkin's disease), although undoubtedly knocking the hell out of T cells, etc, should surely put the immune response in its place. Dr. Bernard Fisher adds a note of sanity when he rightly emphasizes the fact that the most effective form of immunization against a tumour is its surgical excision, and he shows commendable caution about the clinical application of immunotherapy.

The glossary is long, absurd, and frequently incorrect, and the incidence of printing errors is unacceptably high. This book, by concentrating on human studies alone, provides an over-optimistic, idiosyncratic, and generally uninformative read.

G. A. CURRIE

**Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation in Man.** By J. D. Minna, S. J. Robboy and R. W. Colman. (Pp. xv + 207; illustrated; \$18.50.) Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1974.

I found this a most enjoyable book to read. The authors have based the book on the study of 91 patients with diffuse intravascular coagulation (DIC) seen and managed by them at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Forty-five patients who were followed by the staff of the hospital form the main basis of the chapters on therapy and prognosis. The book gains from this personal involvement with the patients though naturally some preferences or prejudices are apparent in the chapters on criteria for diagnosis and treatment. Despite a slightly whimsical foreword the book is a thoroughly workmanlike statement on this disorder. DIC occurs as a complication of so many diseases that this book should be of

interest to a variety of clinicians as well as haematologists. Hopefully a few students might find it useful too, though the price may exclude it from their personal bookshelves.

E. C. GORDON-SMITH

**Drug-Induced Blood Disorders.** By G. C. de Gruchy. (Pp. viii + 204; illustrated; £7.25.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1975.

Carl de Gruchy had a great ability to present haematology in a clear, interesting way. This small volume is a further example of this ability and emphasizes how much he will be missed as a teacher. Books about drug-induced disorders usually end up as catalogues of reported cases and lists of offending drugs which makes for very heavy reading. In this book the detail is comprehensive but presented in such a way that the reader never loses sight of the underlying principles of observation, investigation, and management which go with the management of patients. It was Carl de Gruchy's strength that he was a fine clinician with immense knowledge of the laboratory work behind his specialty, who could interpret his knowledge for other clinicians. This book should be available for all who use drugs, which must be most clinicians, as well as for those specializing in haematology. One point of regret is that there is no section on the interaction of drugs with oral anticoagulants, a field which probably involves haematologists more than all the other drug-induced disorders put together.

E. C. GORDON-SMITH

**Preservation of Bacteria with Notes on other Micro-organisms.** Public Health Service Monograph, Series No. 7. By S. P. Lapage and K. F. Redway. (Pp. x + 121; 5 figures; 4 tables; £1.50.) London: HMSO. 1974.

This is the seventh monograph in this series. The authors classify methods of preservation into those employing serial subcultures, reduced metabolism, or suspended animation. The first two methods are dealt with in a few short notes, and the last is divided into 'drying', 'freezing', and 'freeze-drying'. The latter alone is described in considerable detail with special emphasis on the centrifugal technique used in the National Collection for Type Cultures.

There is a short section on the special requirements of different taxa. Tables 3