the fact that, during reading over a period of about a month, the binding disintegrated. The reviewer is an obsessional book lover (whatever the content) and this was not due to clumsy handling. Contacting the publishers resulted in an assurance that this fault had been rectified, but purchasers should beware, since at this price the book must be a reference volume.

C. L. BERRY

Histopathology of the Skin, 5th edition. By Walter F. Lever and Gundula Schaumburg-Lever. (Pp. 793; illustrated; £36.40.) Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. 1975.

When Dr Lever's book first appeared in 1949 it instantly became, and has since remained, the universal standard work on its subject. With each edition it has increased in size, weight, and cost; its contents have increased and its popularity has been maintained. The appearance of this latest edition amply confirms the continuation of all these trends. Newly described conditions have been included, there has been much re-writing of previous chapters, and it has been still further brought up to date by the inclusion of a section on the role of electron microscopy in the pathology of skin disease.

One of the strong points of this book all along has been the general excellence of its references. But paradoxically there are still some strange flaws. For example, in the text it is stated that subcorneal pustular dermatosis was first described by Sneddon and Wilkinson in 1956. Yet the original article describing it does not appear in the list of references. This is a minor criticism. A major one is the quality of the illustrations, too many of which are quite disgracefully bad.

In spite of this serious shortcoming the book will continue to hold its place until overtaken by one of equal scope but better quality.

I. W. WHIMSTER

Yearbook of Cancer 1975. Compiled and edited by R. L. Clark and R. W. Cumley. (Pp. 655; illustrated; £13.20.) Chicago: Yearbook Medical Publishers. 1975.

This book contains abstracts of 329 articles, many illustrated, selected from a literature search of 14 660 papers by a distinguished international editorial committee. The editors make useful comments about the selected papers, cite almost 800

more articles, and suggest additional reading. The articles are arranged, according to topic, anatomically. There are also sections concerned with various diagnostic modalities, therapeutic techniques, and pertinent basic sciences.

There is necessarily a good deal of personal opinion involved in selecting the particular article to be abstracted, but this is unimportant for the general reader who can rest assured that no important development is likely to pass without adequate exposition. Anyone who is responsible for the care of cancer patients will find this series of books a good way to keep abreast of developments in the field; and, for the physician or surgeon who meets the problems of cancer only sporadically as part of a larger practice, I know of no equivalent way of obtaining a rapid survey of the current status of diagnosis and treatment.

P. K. BONDY

Clinical Bacteriology, 4th edition. By E. Joan Stokes. (Pp. x + 394; illustrated; £6.95) London: Edward Arnold. 1975.

This 4th edition of a well-known and valuable book is attractively presented in paper-back at an acceptable price. Like its predecessors it brings together a great deal of careful description of technical methods used in diagnostic microbiology and much informative discussion of clinical aspects. Each procedure, involving specimen, investigation and report, is viewed in a clinical context.

As well as chapters on the isolation and identification of organisms from all types of specimen from every system of the body, the book contains sections on general procedure, antibacterial drugs, clinical immunology, hospital epidemiology, and media testing and other techniques. All sections cannot be equally recommended; I found those parts dealing with the culture of specimens and with antibacterial drugs particularly impressive but was relatively disappointed in the presentations on tuberculosis and brucellosis.

This book has always had an especial appeal to microbiologists because of the strong vein of common sense, experience, and insight that runs through its text. Regarded as a simple primer of clinical microbiology, it can be criticized as giving overemphasis to variations, difficulties, and unusual circumstances, but to a laboratory worker it must be invaluable. I cannot imagine that many can read its

well-argued points of view without questioning some aspect of their own practice. It should have a place in all microbiology laboratories.

G. L. GIBSON

Clinical Cancer Chemotherapy. Edited by Ezra M. Greenspan. (Pp. xvii + 414; illustrated; \$18.25.) Amsterdam: North Holland Publishing Co. 1975.

In a small volume the editors have collected information on most of the major areas of modern cancer chemotherapy in reviews that are concise and up-to-date. Though directed at the practising oncologist, this volume is also recommended for other physicians, surgeons, and family practitioners. There are introductory chapters on the biochemical and pharmacological aspects of cytotoxic drug therapy as well as the formal classification of drugs in common use. The rest of the book is devoted to individual tumours at various sites, including both haematological malignancies and solid tumours.

Most of the chapters on specific diseases are well dealt with, not only in terms of the chemotherapy of the diseases but also providing up-to-date information on the relevant associated biological parameters of the diseases and the general medical problems that arise. In general, it is an excellent volume that can be recommended. Perhaps for the practising oncologist one or two chapters provide less of an over-view than might have been expected. This certainly applies to the section on the non-Hodgkin lymphomas. This is small criticism of an excellent book that is extremely lucid and provides, in all sections, excellent bibliographical information.

H. BUSH