Book reviews

Coronary Heart Disease. Clinical, Angiographic and Pathologic Profiles. by Z. Vlodaver, K. Amplatz, H. B. Burchell, and J. E. Edwards. (Pp. xv + 584; illustrated; \$62.50) Berlin: Heidelberg: New York: Springer-Verlag. 1976.

This is a large beautifully produced book on the clinical, angiographic, and pathological features of coronary heart disease. It is crammed with pictures and diagrams, 1252 in all; these include high-class arteriograms of the coronary system, ECGs, and monochrome photographs of gross and microscopic pathological specimens. The photomicrographs of hearts, which are always difficult to reproduce successfully in black and white, are particularly good, and the photomicrographs, many of which are low-power, whole transverse sections of coronary arteries, show almost every pathological change that a pathologist is likely to see. The text is short and descriptive and the bibliography makes no attempt to be comprehensive.

As an atlas of coronary artery pathology this would be an expensive proposition, but to the pathologist who is working closely with radiologists performing coronary arteriography and surgeons treating patients with coronary heart disease this could be an invaluable book that could help to bring them all closer together. Those involved in tutorials, integrated lectures, and discussion groups could also find this book useful. Unhappily, the text, though extremely brief, is marred by maddening abbreviations which makes it necessary to guess or learn the code before you can read the text (SCV is not a misprint of SVC, it stands for small cardiac vein). This is particularly irritating as the text is presented in short sections and on each page there is always a vast amount of blank unused space that is more than enough to allow the abbreviations to be printed in full. My appeal to Old World pathologists is to stand out against the use of pretentious, even arrogant, jargon as we have enough trouble trying to read the writing on the request form without having to guess what our colleagues mean by their abbreviations.

R. A. B. DRURY

Recent Results in Cancer Research. Tumours in Children. 2nd Revised Edition. Edited by H. B. Marsden and J. K. Steward. (Pp. xvi + 500; 295 figures; 119 tables; DM92, \$37.80, £22.20.) Berlin: Heidelberg: New York: Springer-Verlag. 1976.

The second revised and enlarged edition of *Tumours in Children* presents descriptions of the clinical, pathological, and epidemiological aspects of neoplastic disease in children coupled with brief discussions of therapy. Most of the material is based on the files of the Manchester Children's Tumour Registry and the majority of the contributions are from that city. The strength of this book lies in its origin largely from a single centre so that the material and data are described and presented from the integrated experience of clinicians and pathologists. Where the Manchester material is sparse, for example in carcinoma of thyroid, there is discussion of the experience of other centres and adequate references are given. The wider aspects of childhood neoplasia are presented by J. N. P. Davies from Albany, NY and R. W. Miller from Bethesda, who write on geographical variations in childhood cancer and on epidemiological aspects respectively.

The price of this book is relatively moderate in 1977 and it is certainly worth its place on a pathologist's bookshelf if the first edition is not there already. The royalties from this book go to the J. K. Steward Memorial Fund for Children's Cancer.

G. SLAVIN

Paediatric Haematology. By Michael L. N. Willoughby. (Pp. xv + 434; illustrated; £18.00.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1977.

Most haematologically orientated readers of this journal will be looking for a book which tells them in more detail than general haematology texts how to diagnose and manage blood diseases in children. They will find Dr Willoughby's book a helpful and up-to-date guide. He has produced single handed a comprehen-

sive text, based mainly on extensive reading of relevant work, flavoured with occasional references to personal experience in Glasgow. Each of the 20 chapters gives a long list of references and a short guide to key reading. There are numerous tables and figures taken from the papers he quotes.

It is not easy when writing about children's blood disorders to keep to the point. Some disorders are very rare in childhood, and more information is available from studies based on adults, rightly described in general texts. Dr Willoughby has managed to avoid wandering from his subject, and quotes studies based on adults only when necessary to illustrate a point. There are a few minor faults. More clinical photographs and black-and-white illustrations of blood cells would be better than the single page of colour photographs which are too small and poorly reproduced. Too many minor spelling mistakes suggest hurried proof-reading. I should have appreciated a chapter on lymphocytes and immunity related to the haematology of childhood. These small matters do not really spoil what is a well-planned piece of work.

This is a book written more for the haematologist than the paediatrician, but both will find much relevant information when they look for enlightenment. I am sure that many will. I can warmly recommend it.

D. I. K. EVANS