Book reviews

Cancer in China. Edited by Henry S. Kaplan and Patricia Jones Tsuchitani. (Pp. xii + 235; illustrated; \$28.) New York: Alan R. Liss. 1978.

It is one of the anomalies of political history that the international medical world has, until recently, been better informed about cancer patterns and cancer research in tropical Africa than in China. Following the overthrow of the 'Gang of Four' a team of US oncologists travelled widely through that vast country, and this book is a record of what they saw. It gives a detailed account of cancer epidemiology, research, diagnosis, and treatment, and of the medico-political background.

Most people are familiar with what seems to western eyes to be a curious combination of traditional medicine (acupuncture and herbal therapy) and of high technology, particularly in the field of surgery. Fewer may be aware of the interesting epidemiological studies which have shown high incidence areas of oesophageal, nasopharyngeal, and hepatic carcinoma; of the geographical association of some of these tumours with a high incidence in domestic animals; or of the diagnosis of precancerous oesophageal lesions by cytology obtained by barefoot doctors.

All with an interest in tumours will find something to stimulate them in this book but even these items are to some extent outweighed by the insight given into the thoughts and policies of this fascinating country.

M. S. R. HUTT

Bone Tumors. General Aspects and Data on 6211 Cases. By David C. Dahlin. (Pp. xii + 445; illustrated; \$32.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1978.

This is the 3rd edition of Dahlin's well-known text book, which documents his experience of bone tumour cases at the Mayo Clinic up to the end of 1975. The 11 years since the second edition have provided a further 2234 cases, bringing the total to more than 6000. The format of the earlier editions is followed, with the informative diagrammatic representation of the age and sex incidence of each type of tumour and its pattern of skeletal distribution.

The new edition includes sections on recently described entities such as 'periosteal osteosarcoma', 'dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma', 'clear-cell chondrosarcoma', and 'malignant fibrous histiocytoma', and there are now separate chapters on 'mesenchymal chondrosarcoma' and 'malignant vascular tumours'.

The new edition is a welcome addition to the literature on bone tumours and continues to provide a wealth of first-hand factual information from the author's wide experience.

H. A. SISSONS

Estrogens and Cancer. Edited by S. G. Silverberg and F. J. Major. (Pp. x + 197; illustrated; £15.85.) Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto: Wiley. 1978.

This book consists of the papers presented at a symposium held in Denver in September 1977. The contributors are, for the most part, well-known experts in their field. The possible carcinogenic effects of oral contraceptives are considered as well as the consequences of oestrogen therapy in menopausal women and exposure *in utero* to stilboestrol. Some papers are written from the clinical viewpoint while others deal with pathological and epidemiological matters. The book is well produced and includes some valuable material, but it is concerned with a field in which rapid progress is being made, and some of the contributions are already appreciably out of date.

M. P. VESSEY

Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Volume 25. 'Recent Advances in Clinical Oncology'. Edited by Tapan A. Hazre and Michael C. Beachley. (Pp. ix + 172; illustrated; £16.00.) New York: Alan R. Liss. 1978.

Volume 25 of *Progress in Clinical and Biochemical Research* contains papers presented at a meeting in Virginia, USA, during February 1977 under the title 'Recent Advances in Clinical Oncology'. The four topics considered were non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, CNS tumours in children, genitourinary tumours, and physics in radiation oncology. The scope and quality of these review papers are variable, the majority unfortunately refer-

ring to trials involving very small numbers of patients. Notable exceptions are two excellent papers by H. J. G. Bloom on the management of intracranial tumours, and the multimodal treatment of T3 bladder cancer. Among typographical errors there are some important mistakes in drug scheduling, and readers should refer to the original papers quoted for specific details.

J. F. SMYTH

Renal Histopathology: A Light, Electron, and Immunofluorescent Microscopy Study of Renal Disease. 2nd edition. By Robert Meadows. (Pp. xiv + 544; illustrated; £30.00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1978.

Meadows *Renal Histopathology* is a book that is already popular among histopathologists with an interest in renal disease. Its predecessor, the first edition, confined itself to light microscopical changes; the present revision has been brought up to date with a full account of the ultrastructural and immunopathological aspects of renal disease.

The first half of this large monograph includes a good section on light microscopical techniques used for renal biopsies. The treatment of electron microscopical methods, however, is cursory while that on immune techniques fails to take account of horse-radish peroxidase as a marker, a technique now acquiring considerable popularity. However, the chapter on immunopathology is excellent and succinct. Subsequent sections on the general pathological reactions of the glomerulus, tubules, vessels, and interstitial disease of the kidney will prove particularly attractive to those general pathologists who undertake a renal biopsy service; for the author attempts throughout to relate the special pathology of the kidney to the concepts familiar to general pathologists. In particular, there are valuable analyses of terms that can be rather confusing in renal pathology, for example, the significance of 'fibrinoid' and 'hyaline' change. These analyses are of value not least because they provide a clear summary of the relevant but admittedly essentially anglophone literature.

The second half of the book deals with the varieties of glomerular nephritis under the heading diffuse, focal, and