specialised forms of microscopy, such as polarised light and interference microscopy. These require at least recourse to vector analysis to produce a coherent account. The weakest parts of the book are those that purport to deal with more recent developments in quantitative microscopy. The section nominally devoted to this subject is concerned only with linear measurement. However, apart from this section, and some sections that obviously were intended for amateur microscopists (in the true sense), this is a valuable and lucid book of value to anyone who uses a microscope.

J CHAYEN

The Leukemia Cell. Ed AD Rubin and S Waxman. (Pp 180; illustrated; £37.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

This is an attractively presented but disappointing monograph on the timely topic of the leukaemic cell. It consists of 13 short reviews on selected topics which range from 'a brief history of leukaemia cell research' to the fundamental problem of the 'molecular genesis of human leukaemia'. With so much progress in this field, a book in which the most recent references are from 1976 and occasionally 1977 could easily become outdated. That is the feeling that emerges, particularly after reading some chapters such as those on cytogenetics and surface markers, and antigens on leukaemic cells. The contribution by Bennett and Reed on cytochemistry has the value of describing a number of methods in detail and discussing their interpretation. Four chapters deal with the role of viruses in leukaemogenesis and others with the biosynthesis of immunoglobulins in paraproteinaemias, cell kinetics, production of coagulation factors by leukaemia cells, and a theoretical essay on 'prospectives for leukaemia research and therapy'. There is a fair amount of overlap for a small book covering a limited range of topics. I doubt whether it will fulfil the expectations of the editor-in-chief of the CRC Immunology and Lymphoid Cell Biology Unisience series that it will provide a 'basis for the interested investigator who is not expert in these subdisciplines to become familiar with current viewpoints and unsolved problems in these important areas of leukaemic research'.

D CATOVSKY

Liver and Biliary Tract Disease in Children. D Alagille and M Odievre. (Pp xi + 364; illustrated; £23.) John Wiley & Sons. 1979.

This book (which has been translated into English) records the experience gathered over the years by all those working at the Hôpital d'Enfants de Bicêtre in Paris. Nineteen chapters covering a wide range of liver disorders, both common and rare, provide information on clinical aspects and laboratory investigations. Histological findings are described in considerable detail. Among these chapters, those concerned with hyperbilirubinaemia in the newborn, hepatitis in children, the liver in systemic diseases, and congenital hepatic fibrosis are of particular interest. The authors emphasise that much of what they have written will require revision as further experience is accumulated.

This is a book to consult in the library when the paediatrician is faced with a difficult clinical problem involving the liver, since the authors' experience is wide, and the accounts given are thoroughly up to date.

BE CLAYTON

Advances in Cancer Chemotherapy. Vol 1. Ed A Rosowsky. (Pp vi + 297; illustrated; Sw Fr 68.) Marcel Dekker Inc. 1979.

This book is the first of a series intended to cover the whole field of cancer chemotherapy, including information about drug development, clinical and biochemical pharmacology, and clinical applications. This first volume contains two excellent articles on antifolates, covering both clinical and laboratory investigations of methotrexate used with various types of rescue. There is an interesting chapter concerning the dose-response relationships of the L1210 mouse leukaemia to various drugs, with an intelligent discussion of the applicability of such results to the treatment of human tumours. There are also informative chapters about intercalating drugs and cyclophosphamide.

This volume considers the various drugs in considerably more detail than is usual in textbooks of pharmacology or review articles and thus would be of little value to the busy practitioner with only a slight involvement in cancer chemotherapy. However, for the clinician with a serious interest in cancer chemotherapy, it provides a much needed source of information which is not easy to find elsewhere. The standard of writing is variable, as it is with most multi-author books, but is on the whole good. It is to be hoped that this can be maintained in subsequent volumes.

AH CALVERT