Book reviews

can be recommended to all haematologists, histopathologists, and immunologists. Hairy Cell Leukaemia, the joker in the lymphoma-leukaemia pack, continues to be a subject of intensive research and interest. Most recently, for example, there appears to be a bald variety of the cell. Who knows what will come next?

HEM KAY

Cloning of Human Tumor Stem Cells. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 48. Ed SE Salmon. (Pp 367; illustrated; \$44.00.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1980.

Dr Salmon has brought together over 30 authors to review the culture of human tumour cells as colonies in semi-solid media.

In the first part Salmon and Buick present a very brief review of the theoretical background. Part two consists of eight chapters covering the development of suitable assays for colony forming cells in a variety of human tumours. The chapters are comprehensive and contain an appropriate amount of experimental detail, but in some areas the need for further work is obvious. There is an error in Chapter 8 (Figure 2A, p 90). A claim is made for a linear relationship between colonies and cells plated, but the figure clearly shows a log-linear relationship. Linearity is important, and an explanation for this is needed if much of the work is not to be invalidated.

Methods of colony analysis are summarised in five chapters, and the work of Trent on the cytogenetics of cells in colonies is noteworthy. Section four contains details of the controversial but encouraging work on the use of colony inhibition as a measure of tumour chemosensitivity. The final two sections contain Dr Salmon's overview of future work and useful technical appendices.

The contribution of the Arizona group in this field has been very great and this book will be of value to everyone interested in working with these techniques. However more emphasis in some chapters upon the problems which remain and some of the controversies which surround existing methods and results might have made it more valuable to the less specialised reader.

PJ SELBY

Fundamentals of Oncology. 2nd ed. Henry C Pitot. (Pp 304; illustrated; Sw fr 45.) Marcel Dekker Inc. 1981.

This text is designed as an introduction to the biology of cancer for the non-medical student of oncology in the United States. It would equally suit the trainee pathologist or medical oncologist in this country. The book requires the attention of the reader and some understanding of biology and pathology are essential if the student is not to be guided by a teacher. The chapters cover terminology, etiology, pathogenesis and biochemistry of cancer, host-tumour relationships, etc. This second edition has up-to-date references (1980) and an added chapter on the basics of cancer chemotherapy.

There are some differences in the language of oncology on this side of the Atlantic but the terms used by the author are clearly defined. It is not too difficult to find rather bald statements or comparisons made in a relatively short introduction to a vast subject. For example, too glib a comparison is made between initiations of tumour in the experimental sense and carcinoma *in-situ* of the human. The literature cited has had to be limited and is predominantly American. These are minor criticisms and I find the book admirable. I would recommend it to any serious student who wants an authoritative introduction to the subject.

HG RICHMOND

Manual of Methods for General Bacteriology. Eds P Gerhardt, RGE Murray, RN Costilow, EW Nester, WA Wood, NR Krieg and GB Phillips. (Pp 524; illustrated; \$25 hardback.) American Society for Microbiology. 1981.

This excellent and up-to-date book may be regarded as a companion to the *Manual of Clinical Microbiology*, Lennette *et al.* (eds) (1980), also produced under the auspices of the American Society for Microbiology. It is directed to general rather than clinical microbiology and deals with the following topics—morphology, growth, genetics, metabolism, systematics, and laboratory safety. The book is intended for serious microbiologists and contains a wealth of useful information and detail about a great many techniques appertaining to general bacteriology: virology is not included. There is a uniform quality to all the chapters and the details given are adequate to enable the reader to use the techniques

described without reference elsewhere. Many of the methods described are likely to be useful for research in a clinical laboratory. Strongly recommended as a reference book on the shelf of any active bacteriology department and very good value for the money.

DM JONES

Immunological Investigation of Connective Tissue Disease. LE Glynn and CA Reading. (Pp 98; illustrated; £15.) Churchill Livingstone. 1981.

The stated aim of the series "Practical Methods in Clinical Immunology" is to provide manuals giving "explicit guidance" in the performance of tests and also an account of the "interpretation of results". In this volume the authors consider so-called "connective tissue diseases" (a term which stubbornly refuses to pass into obsolescence) and have concentrated on five of these conditions—rheumatoid arthritis, SLE, mixed connective tissue disease, rheumatic fever and amyloid.

Of the 83 pages the first 50 are concerned with theoretical considerations of the investigations in various well defined groups of patients as reported in the literature. The text reads more like a review of the literature rather than a distillate of the authors' own extensive experience in the field. The chapter on immune complexes describes in brief detail a large number of tests, with little guidance as to which is most suitable. There is no reference to the recent results of collaborative studies of immune complex tests organised for the World Health Organisation. Immunoelectrophoresis and quantification of proteins are described but no guidance is given on how these may be used to evaluate patients with connective tissue disorders. The ELISA technique is discussed without indicating how it should be used other than to say it "offers endless opportunities" and can be readily adapted for the study of IgG, IgM or IgA rheumatoid factors—under what circumstances should we be doing this?—or again "to replace the Mancini plate method for the quantification of serum protein"—is this really advocated? Anything is possible, but books with these aims should also indicate what is realistic and appropriate.

Chapter 6, headed "In vivo tests of immunity", contains one-and-a-half pages of text, there is virtually no information on what the tests are or how they should be done and interpreted. The chapter on