

hand and more organ and system orientated material in which disorders characterised by excessive or persistent repair are discussed on the other. The strengths and weaknesses inseparable from the multiple author format are present here and I was disappointed in the lack of any clear logic as to the running order of the chapters, which I must presume are intended therefore to be read as a rather loosely grouped set of individual essays, some of which are clearly very fine. There is some overlap between the contents of this volume and those of volume 2 in the series, particularly in the area of phagocyte function.

On the whole the book has been well produced. Some of the figures are badly out of focus and thus out of place in so costly a volume. Despite these strictures there is much of interest to be found here and I would hope that all medical school libraries would stock this book and its companion volumes.

N WOOLF

Markers for Diagnosis and Monitoring of Human Cancer. Ed MI Colnaghi, GL Buraggi, and M Ghione. (Pp 280; illustrated; £21.60/\$44.50.) Academic Press Inc (London) Ltd 1982.

Symposia, funded by drug companies in pleasant surroundings to which experts in a field are invited to present either an overview or new date on their subject to each other, are usually both entertaining and intellectually stimulating. The publications which result from these meetings are frequently neither. This volume which is the report on the Sero Symposium, held in Milan April 1981, is no exception. In their preface the editors explain that the book is not intended to be an all purpose review of the "State of the art" and it is certainly not. Like many similar publications, the references are generally inadequate: several authors have quoted their reviews in similar unrefereed volumes rather than the seminal original work, and even an abstract presented at a Pathological Society meeting. Titles of papers are not given.

The editors claim that the virtues of the book include the discussion, the technical details given in depth and new data. However, the discussion reported is negligible, few methods are given in sufficient detail, and there is very little new unpublished data. I recommend that readers spend their money on an additional refereed journal rather than on this addition

to the already overburdened list of books on tumour markers.

EADIE HEYDERMAN

The Biomathematics of Malaria. NTJ Bailey. (Pp 210; £16.50.) Charles Griffin & Co Ltd. 1982.

The mathematical approach to the epidemiology and control of malaria was first suggested by Sir Ronald Ross soon after the discovery of the parasite. A very detailed analysis of it was published by the American demographer Lotka in the *American Journal of Hygiene* in 1923. During the 1950s Professor George MacDonald of the London School of Hygiene applied the theory in a very simple and effective manner to practical problems of control. Since then there have been much more elaborate studies of the practical use of the theory and its mathematical development. It is fair to say that this has been one of the rare success stories of biomathematics in epidemiology and is a model of what applied mathematics can achieve.

Dr Bailey's book gives a very thorough and comprehensive account of both the mathematics and its practical applications. A good deal of the mathematics is quite formidable and for the non-specialist is likely to hide the essential simplicity of some of the basic results, but anyone who has an interest in the subject and no aversion to mathematics is recommended to browse through this book to try and pick up some of its lessons.

CC SPICER

Notices

RA Willis Memorial Library

It is proposed to establish the RA Willis Memorial Library at the Yarram and District Hospital, Victoria, Australia, in the town where the late Professor Willis was born in 1898. As well as all textbooks, it is hoped that this library will house a significant collection of original manuscripts, letters, papers and case reports, and form a permanent repository for his work. Pathologists with such material in their possession are invited to send this to: Dr JA Hayman, c/o Journal of Clinical Pathology,

BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Pathologists with material which cannot be conveniently posted are invited to contact Dr Hayman who will arrange collection. All material received will be acknowledged and indexed, listing the donor, and will be available for reference.

Clinical biochemistry nearer the patient

An International Conference entitled "Clinical biochemistry nearer the patient" of interest to clinicians and laboratory workers alike will be held at the University of Surrey on 5 and 6 September 1983. For information please contact: Professor Vincent Marks, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Surrey, Guildford, GU2 5XH, England.

Some new titles

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans. Vol 28. The Rubber Industry. (Pp 486; Sw fr 70.) World Health Organisation. 1982.

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans. Vol 27. Some Aromatic Amines, Anthraquinones and Nitroso Compounds, and Inorganic Fluorides used in Drinking-water and Dental Preparations. (Pp 341; Sw fr 40.) World Health Organisation. 1982.

Immunopathology. VIIIth International Symposium 1980. Ed FJ Dixon and PA Miescher. (Pp 556; illustrated; \$54.00.) Academic Press Inc. 1982.

Gel Electrophoresis of Nucleic Acids: A Practical Approach. Ed D Rickwood and B Hames. (Pp 242; illustrated; £8.50 soft cover.) IRL Press Ltd. 1982.

Correction

In the August issue on page 808, column 2, second italic heading, this should read *Ehrlich's reagent*. The error is repeated in the text below.¹

Reference

¹ Hodgkinson A, Thompson T. Measurement of the fasting urinary hydroxyproline: creatinine ratio in normal adults and its variation with age and sex. *J Clin Pathol* 1982;35:807-11.