

## Book reviews

**Leukaemia.** UICC Technical Report Series Vol 61. A Series of Workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer. Report No 14. Ed NL Warner and D Metcalf. (Pp 232; Sw fr 44.) Hans Huber Publishers. 1982.

Although it is questionable whether the UICC should devote their time to producing monographs on the biology of malignant disease when the literature is afloat with reviews of all sorts, that dealing with leukaemia is certainly a valuable summary of current understanding. It deals with the topics of pathogenesis, not only as regards the interaction of aetiological factors, but also the failure of control of differentiation and proliferation, and the behaviour of the leukaemic cell *in vitro*. There are sections on classification and chromosomal change but therapy is confined to marrow transplantation insofar as that is relevant to pathogenesis. The 581 references give further guidance to an understanding of this still rapidly moving subject.

HEM KAY

**Free Radicals, Lipid Peroxidation and Cancer.** Ed DCH McBrien and TF Slater. (Pp 447; illustrated; £24.00, \$49.50.) Academic Press Inc. (London) Ltd 1982.

A record of the proceedings of the first of a series of symposia on cancer topics, organised and supported by the NFCR Cancer Research Association and the National Foundation for Cancer Research is presented in this book. It is a collection of review articles and original reports, together with the appropriate discussion of the individual papers, on a variety of topics related to free radicals. The book is divided into three parts. The first section is concerned with electron spin resonance and includes useful reviews on the application of ESR to both general biological problems and to cancer studies. The second section is concerned with lipid peroxidation and has useful chapters on the effects of aldehydes on cell function and structure. The third section is concerned with activated intermediates, particularly free radicals, in a variety of situations including carcinogenesis and cancer chemotherapy.

This is a useful book with several useful chapters together providing a valuable review of the interrelations of free radicals, lipid peroxidation and malignancy.

TJ PETERS

**Diabetes Management in the '80s.** Ed CM Peterson. (Pp 327; illustrated; £27.25.) WB Saunders Company Ltd. 1982.

Diabetologists have long believed, on rather slender evidence, that perfect control of blood glucose can delay or even prevent the development of complications. But now, the introduction of methods for regular blood glucose monitoring by the patient at home, the laboratory estimation of glycosylated haemoglobin, and the use of continuous insulin infusion for long periods has provided the means for testing this belief.

In this book we have a collection of papers on the state of the art in each of these areas as it existed in 1980 when a group of experts met at The Rockefeller University in New York. Each paper is well presented and well documented up to and including 1980, but during the book's two year gestation period, much of the information has already been published elsewhere.

One would expect that a symposium would have generated a great deal of brisk discussion on the value and future development of these new techniques. One or two of the papers do set out to examine possible areas of controversy, but the final opinions are those of the individual authors and the opportunity to learn the views of the other experts on these issues has been lost. Thus this book is a good summary of the achievements of the '70s rather than a guide to diabetes management in the '80s when the benefits to be obtained from the introduction of these new measures will have to be carefully assessed against their cost to the community.

RF MAHLER

**The Revised Clinical Slide Collection on the Rheumatic Diseases.** (328 35-mm slides in colour and black & white plus syllabus with photograph and description on each slide; \$340 per set; syllabus alone \$65.) Arthritis Foundation, 1314 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, USA. 1981.

The 1981 slide collection of the Arthritis Foundation is a very comprehensive set, well organised into sections and covering almost every possible aspect of rheumatic diseases. In general it is well thought out and presented; in particular the accompanying photographs and descriptions are excellent. Numbering is somewhat odd,

presumably because this collection has been built from previous collections, eg for normal it moves from 1/3 to 1/9 and in every section there are gaps where one assumes slides have been removed. Clinical colour photographs are often poorly reproduced, there being a great deal of blue in a number of them. Overall, these vary considerably, but as these are the easiest parts of the collection for a physician to obtain, this does not detract greatly from this collection. Some of the clinical ones are not entirely satisfactory, eg 3/1 showing growth retardation would have been greatly improved by having a child of similar age stand by the deformed child, while in 3/2 a younger child with more obvious valgus deformity would have been better. Similarly, one or two slides are not entirely helpful, eg the leg ulcer 7/20 is not specific for scleroderma but could occur with any vasculitis; this is indicated in the text. 7/69 perforation of the nasal septum, which is described as in "mixed connective tissue syndrome", is a somewhat unusual condition for this problem, which recurs again in a more appropriate place under Wegener's granulomatosis and polycondritis. On several occasions, notably in 8/1, the parotid gland would have been easier to identify had the whole face been shown and a similar comment can be made for temporal arteritis when, instead of showing the forehead, the whole side of the face would have been better for teaching purposes.

Radiological reproductions are in general excellent, though in one or two cases arrowing is necessary to indicate the abnormality and at times, eg 17/2, this periostitis around the knee in hypertrophic pulmonary osteo-arthropathy did not show up particularly well and some examples could be improved, eg 12/21, the tuberculous knee x-ray is very late — and an earlier example would be better, and 12/9, the wrist x-ray is not diagnostic as any infection could cause the changes. 13/6 is labelled to lie laterally and as it is the pathology of 13/5 it would be better to have it in the same position. The combined pathological slides showing the macroscopic picture contrasting with the appropriate x-ray are superb, eg 13/21 and 13/24 with the gross pathology by the radiograph are excellent. At times colour is not good, eg 13/35 degenerative joint disease of the knee. The outstanding feature of the collection is the histological slides. These are well described and in good colour which contrast markedly with some of the clinical photographs.

BARBARA ANSELL