survival rate in the non-gangrenous variety was 95% with conservative management, but the mortality rate in the gangrenous variety was 98% with conservative treatment, 56% following resection and 67% after treatment by colostomy. It is acknowledged that the high complication and mortality rates are due to a frequent misdiagnosis of ischaemic colonic disease and a failure to identify an ischaemic aetiology; in particular, failure to recognise the gangrenous variety and the tendency to perform resections which are too limited since ischaemic necrosis was frequently discovered at the suture lines and in the colostomy ends at autopsy.

The text, tables, diagrams, and illustrations project valuable observations and the monograph is undoubtedly a valuable addition to the literature. The chronic "non resolving" form (9%) and the stricturing form (7.5%) are interesting in that they are associated with irreversible mural changes which lead to tubular narrowing or to persistent ulcerative colitis which frequently requires surgical resection. The authors point out that in 44% of the histological material there was no mention of the condition of the small mesenteric vessels regarding aetiology. One minor criticism is that it is wrongly stated on page 64 that fissures are absent in ischaemic colitis which is inconsistent with the information in Table 15.5 that fissuring is not uncommon. Pseudomembrane formation is described but its occurrence is not emphasised and although bacterial proliferation and clostridium infection are discussed, the role and significance of clostridial involvement with gas bubble formation and toxemia are not considered in detail.

I strongly recommend this monograph to gastroenterologists, radiologists, pathologists, and surgeons as an aid to the interpretation and understanding of ischaemic colitis.

H THOMPSON

Human Blood Coagulation, Haemostasis and Thrombosis. 3rd ed. Rosemary Biggs and CR Rizza. (Pp 601; £42.50.) Blackwells. 1984.

It is eight years since the last edition of this well known book appeared. Since then of course there have been great advances in knowledge about haemostasis, and consequently many chapters have been rewritten and several new ones added. The sections on laboratory reagents and methods have been dropped but there is a chapter on laboratory diagnosis, on the statistics of bioassays, and on controls in assays of

blood coagulation factors.

The style of the book is unchanged. It is a collection of reviews covering main topics, and where appropriate the clinical management of bleeding and thrombotic disorders. It is still predominantly an Oxford book because, of the twenty distinguished contributors, seven are from the Oxford Haemophilia Centre, joined by ten from elsewhere in the United Kingdom and three from the United States.

Throughout references are abundant and date from the last century to as recent as 1984. A very nicely produced volume which is already a standard haematological text and deserves to remain one.

P STORY

Leukaemia. Recent Developments in Diagnosis and Therapy. Recent Results in Cancer Research No 93. Ed E Thiel and S Thierfelder. (Pp 305; DM 126; US \$46.60.) Springer. 1984.

A number of monographs on leukaemia have recently been published which attempt to summarise the often bewilderingly large amounts of clinical and scientific data appearing on the subject lately. Such works are often not only a valuable source of reference but also may provide a critical analysis of current treatment protocols. This work, almost all of which is written by German authors, concentrates mainly on the clinical features and treatment of both chronic and acute leukaemia with three useful introductory chapters on the possible role of viruses in the aetiology of leukaemia, cytogenetics, and cytology. There is an additional valuable linking chapter by Thiel on the possible prognostic value of cell marker studies. The work contains clear reviews on adult lymphatic and myeloid leukaemia by Hoelzer and Foon & Gale respectively, and a concise but well referenced article on allogeneic bone marrow transplantation. Unfortunately, a comprehensive review of the extensive German experience in the treatment of ALL in children is marred by somewhat stilted English. The book is very well referenced throughout (up to 1983) and is produced to a high standard. It would be a useful buy for any department with an interest in the treatment of leukaemia.

RE MARCUS

Tropical and Geographical Medicine. Kenneth S Warren and Adel AF Mahmoud. (Pp 1175; £61.50.) McGraw-Hill. 1984.

In these days of population mobility clinical

pathologists of all types have an interest in tropical medicine and pathology whether or not they practise solely in temperate climates. This is a refreshing new book which places the emphasis on mechanisms and pathogenesis of disease rather than on clinical presentation and therapy. It necessarily covers a broad spectrum both of infective and non-infective conditions though not surprisingly more space is given to the former. The contributions are mainly American but there are excellent chapters from British physicians. This is a "best buy" at £61.50. If you think that it is a luxury for the laboratory, make sure the hospital library has a copy.

G SLAVIN

Notice

Third Symposium of Inflammation Matters

This is a three day symposium to be held on 26-28 June 1985 in Lyon, France. The programme will include lectures and short communications on interleukins, extracellular matrix in inflammation (collagen, fibronectin, SAA, SAP), and immunopharmacology (new anti-inflammatory antirheumatic, and immunomodulator drugs). There will also be poster sessions and round table discussions.

Application forms may be obtained from Dr JT Whicher, Department of Chemical Pathology, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol BS2 8HW (Tel: 0272-22041 ext 2840).

Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis Testing. Ed JF Douglas. (Pp 335; \$59.50.) The Humana Press Inc. 1984.

Regulation and Control of Cell Proliferation. Ed K Lapis and A Jeney. (Pp 512; \$32.50.) Akademiai Kiado. 1984.

Recent Developments in Clinical Research. Vol 13. Vol Ed CE Organos. (Pp 192; Sfr 164/US \$98.25.) Karger. 1984.

Basement Membranes and Cell Movement. Ciba Foundation Symposium 108. (Pp 285; £26.50) Pitman. 1984.

The Apocrine Glands and the Breast. Marshall BL Craigmyle. (Pp 82; £24.) John Wiley. 1984.