

tion. Here is needed so much the kind of technical breakthrough in which the modern physicist has so distinguished himself, in contrast to his biological counterpart.

Written by 38 authors, most of international status, well produced and authoritative, it is a pity that the book should, in parts, be needlessly repetitive, at times uncritical and at others verging on the anecdotal. These faults, however, are minor and difficult to avoid with multiple authorship, except perhaps by the most ruthless editing. The important thing is that the material is up to date and well documented; it is therefore bound to be of great interest to all those concerned with human reproduction and its control.

G. I. M. SWYER.

Cancer Therapy

Current Perspectives in Cancer Therapy. Edited by William S. Blakemore, M.D., and I. S. Ravdin, M.D. (Pp. 234 + xiv; illustrated. 68s.) New York and London: Harper & Row. 1966.

This symposium by 32 authors is designed for the clinician and postgraduate student to give them up-to-date information on the growing points in a quickly changing subject. Basic research is making important contributions to cancer control, which the editors wisely weave into this book.

The material is arranged in five parts, with an editor-author discussion at the end of each to elucidate special points raised in the text. A full index is given, completing a very readable arrangement, enhanced deliberately by only brief bibliographical references. The basic research subjects chosen are viruses, clinical implications of models of tumour growth, chromosomal abnormalities, molecular basis of chemotherapy, and geographic and genetic factors in cancer. These growing points in cancer research are of interest and important for the clinician. For instance, the kinetics of tumour growth should be understood, for chemotherapeutic strategy is intimately linked with tumour cell behaviour, which has already been considerably clarified by studying tumour models.

Five chapters are devoted to aspects of chemotherapy and hormone therapy, followed by a helpful discussion to elucidate further a number of problems. Indications for this treatment, techniques of administration—including perfusion and infusion—and results are described. It is obvious more basic research is required regarding the mechanisms of action of radiotherapy and chemotherapy,

for here is a treatment combination which may have future promise. Developments in hormonal therapy are described, and, as expected, attention is given to the increased number of cancers which are responsive to this treatment. Thus endometrial carcinoma is probably associated with a defect of luteinizing hormone secretion and combated by giving progesterone. The acute leukaemias of children are very sensitive to corticoids, prednisone being the usual choice. In carcinoma of the ovary alkylating agents are considered to be the best first treatment. Helpful advice is given in treating lung carcinoma, where the use of corticoid hormones as an adjuvant to surgery can be very helpful.

The remaining chapters are concerned with cancer of various important sites which, with the discussions, merit careful study, for they contain valuable information on many problems which constantly confront the clinician. The recognition of symptoms of carcinoma of the oesophagus before obstruction occurs is stressed, together with the use of x-ray motility studies. Pyloroplasty is recommended as an integral part of the operation of oesophago-gastrostomy, and the importance of avoiding postoperative gastric distension by routine nasogastric suction is stressed. "Cancer versus ulcer of the stomach" is presented in a refreshing way, where the author points out the importance of early operation with a view to cancer prevention and cancer treatment. Pitfalls in preoperative diagnosis are many: it is difficult for the most skilled radiologist to distinguish between a benign and malignant gastric ulcer; the size of the ulcer is of little diagnostic value; evidence of healing by filling of the defect cannot be accepted as proof of benignancy, etc. Five chapters are given to the colon, where the relationship of polyps and ulcerative colitis to carcinoma is discussed in addition to other aspects of malignant disease. A plea is made for a better diagnostic procedure to diagnose early carcinoma in ulcerative colitis to obviate routine colectomy in patients with long-standing disease. But is it wise to let the carcinoma develop?

It is heartening to read of the hopeful note sounded about solid tumours in children, especially relating to Wilms's tumour and neuroblastoma, where current management is described. There is an interesting section on breast carcinoma; the last words are, "it appears that early diagnosis and treatment by radical mastectomy are still the best means available at this time for decreasing deaths from cancer of the breast." This is a stimulating and challenging book.

RONALD W. RAVEN.

Prague Congress on Antibiotics

Antibiotics. Advance in Research, Production and Clinical Use. Congress, Prague, 1964. Edited by Professor Milos Herold, D.Sc., and Dr. Zdenek Gabriel. (Pp. 778; illustrated. £5 5s.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

The organizers of the Congress on Antibiotics held in Prague in June 1964 have taken the unprecedented step of publishing the whole of the contributions in English. This will be welcomed, since many of the papers were given in Russian, Czech, or other eastern European languages, and simultaneous translation did not always enable even those who were present to get the full sense of what was said. These papers have been well translated; of those from Great Britain and the U.S.A. it is quaintly said that they have been "printed from supplied manuscripts without attempting to edit occasional language peculiarities." Many of the contributions are in somewhat condensed or even summary form; since they total 163, it would otherwise have been impossible to get them into a single volume.

No entirely new major antibiotic has been discovered in Eastern Europe, but much work has been done in modifying existing ones. Some unfamiliar derivatives of penicillin, tetracycline, and aminoglycosides are described, and workers in Leningrad have produced a soluble form of nystatin for inhalation. Many papers report fluorescence studies of the tissue distribution of tetracyclines, a subject of interest in three directions: as an undesired side-effect, as a factor influencing the effect on a lesion, and as a means of diagnosing malignant and other conditions. Interesting individual papers are by A. Ch. Sarkisov on the manifold uses made of antibiotics in rearing livestock in the U.S.S.R., and one by workers in Zagreb and Rome on genetic recombination among antibiotic-forming species of *Streptomyces*; it is perhaps too much to hope that an antibiotic combining the virtues of two others can be produced in this way.

The late Ellard M. Yow contributed a thoughtful paper with experimental data on the failure of penicillin to sterilize staphylococcal lesions except at an early stage, and Y. A. Chabbert a study of the rapidity of action of bactericidal antibiotics in the urinary tract. There is something in this volume for everyone, and the Prague authorities are to be congratulated on their enterprise in getting it published.

L. P. GARROD.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Bio-Electronic Detection of Cancer and other Diseases. Methods of Diagnosing Symptomless Disease. By H. A. Morton Whitby. (Pp. 152 + xiii; illustrated. 42s.) London: Crosby Lockwood. 1967.

The Amphetamines. Toxicity and Addiction. By Orianna Josseau Kalant, Ph.D. (Pp. 151 + xii. 48s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1967.

Annual Reports in Medicinal Chemistry, 1965. Edited by Cornelius K. Cain. (Pp. 342 + ix. \$7.50.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1966.

Modern Trends in Rheumatology. Vol. 1. Edited by Alan G. S. Hill, M.C., F.R.C.P.(Ed.), M.R.C.P. (Pp. 394 + xii; illustrated. 95s.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

Congenital Anomalies and Systemic Diseases. Atlas of External Diseases of the Eye. Vol. 1. By David D. Donaldson, M.D. (Pp. 169 + x; illustrated + stereoscopic views. £13 2s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1966.

Haemophilus Influenzae. Its Clinical Importance. By David C. Turk, D.M.(Oxon.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.C.Path., and J. Robert May, M.D.(Cantab.), F.C.Path. (Pp. 140 + x; illustrated. 42s.) London: English Universities Press. 1967.

Energy, Work and Leisure. By J. V. G. A. Durnin, M.B., D.Sc., and R. Passmore, M.D. (Pp. 166 + ix; illustrated. 25s.) London: Heinemann. 1967.

Learning Theory and Social Work. By Derek Jehu. (Pp. 139 + viii. 21s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1967.