

Transformation in Cell Culture

Virology Monographs Vol. 8. Spontaneous and Virus Induced Transformation in Cell Culture. J. Pontén. (Pp. 253; \$22.70.) Springer-Verlag. 1971.

There are few scientists sufficiently courageous or qualified to tackle such a broad subject as that dealt with in this book and Pontén has done it very well.

The book starts with some definitions of the term "transformation," which may have different meanings depending on the techniques used to detect changes during transformation process. Of equal importance is the discussion of the relationship between transformation in vitro and neoplasia in vivo.

The spontaneous transformations are divided into those occurring from non-haemopoietic cells and the lymphoblastoid transformation of human lymphoid tissue or peripheral blood. Among the non-haemopoietic cells it is interesting to note that the human and mouse cells have been studied

in the greatest detail and when only well controlled experiments are considered then human solid tissues have very little, if any, tendency to undergo spontaneous infinite growth transformation. A systematic treatment of spontaneous lymphoblastoid transformation includes a general description of the changes of lymphatic tissue and bone marrow, the relationship between lymphoblasts and fibroblasts, and the production of immunoglobulins after transformation, as well as the studies undertaken in looking for virus-like particles in the transformed cells. The changes in chromosomes are mentioned, and the question whether the mechanism is selection or induction as well as the relationship between lymphoblastoid transformation and neoplasia is discussed.

About three-quarters of the book is devoted to virus-induced transformation in cell cultures, dealing first with the DNA and then the RNA viruses. Of the DNA viruses polyoma virus and simian virus SV40 are presented in great detail, collating all the

changes caused by transformation and making special mention of the virus antigens incorporated into the cells. The adenoviruses are also mentioned, as is transformation brought about by a combination of viruses. The RNA viruses are represented by members of the avian leukaemia-sarcoma complex as well as those of the murine leukaemia-sarcoma complex. The final section is a general survey and discussion bringing together all the characteristics of transformed cells as well as presenting the mechanisms of transformation.

It must have taken a great deal of time to present so much data in a narrative so easy to read. The book has 186 pages with an additional 65 pages containing more than 1,500 references. This is a rapidly changing field and this account takes us up to 1970. Not only all libraries and virology departments will wish to have a copy but many individuals will find it useful as a reference book.

F. T. PERKINS

Congenital Heart Disease

The Clinical Recognition of Congenital Heart Disease. Joseph K. Perloff, M.D., (Pp. 606; £10.63.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

This very useful volume succeeds in demonstrating the author's belief that a careful appraisal of the history, physical signs, electrocardiogram, and chest radiograph can often lead to a correct diagnosis in congenital heart disease provided one has a clear

understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the lesion.

Each of 29 major cardiac abnormalities has a separate chapter in which one is led through the various steps in diagnosis. This is where it becomes clear that the outstanding feature of this book is the 578 high-quality illustrations with their full and perceptively written captions. They include carefully thought out composite plates in addition to well-produced chest radiographs

and electrocardiograms. The phonocardiograms are excellent, as are the many clinical photographs.

The text, which is clear and well written, is enlivened by very good historical vignettes, and the numerous references to the literature are neatly fitted in. This is a highly professional and strongly recommended work which has been a real pleasure to study.

A. HOLLMAN

Medical History through People

The Great Doctors. A Biographical History of Medicine. Henry E. Sigerist. Reprint of the English edition of 1958. (Pp. 436; £2.25.) Constable. 1971.

Grosse Aerzte, eine Geschichte der Heilkunde in Lebensbildern by Professor Henry Sigerist (1891-1957), the renowned medical historian, was produced in 1931. The book was translated into English two years later and this version is now republished in paperback for the second time, the previous occasion being in 1958.

When the book first appeared it was given an enthusiastic reception and over the last 40 years it has remained an excellent source of biographical material in the history of medicine. It is, however, more than this because the biographies are

arranged chronologically with a continuous narrative connecting them. The book begins with ancient Egyptian medicine, represented by Imhotep and ends with an account of Sir William Osler (1849-1919). There are 56 outstanding individuals included and minor figures are also dealt with briefly. No exception can be taken to the author's selection of names, though some may feel that German-speaking doctors have been given too much prominence; five Britons are represented.

Professor Sigerist's literary style in the original German was forceful and fiery but not much of this came through in the translation. Nevertheless, his prose is terse and attractive, illustrated by excellent portraits and in each instance the individual's signature. The only criticism relates to the "bibliography" (pp. 405-415), and this is

levelled at the publishers not at the author. Much of the literature referred to is in languages other than English and it is all pre-1933. It is a pity that a more up-to-date list of references has not been included for this would have further enhanced the value of the book.

Despite this adverse feature, however, Professor Sigerist has provided us with an excellent example of how an outstanding scholar can produce an eminently readable work, directed to both medical and lay readers. It deserves the highest praise and the warmest recommendation. It should be made available for all medical students, and without doubt will be as popular with the present generation of doctors as it was when it first appeared in 1933.

EDWIN CLARKE

SELECTED NEW TITLES

Psychiatric Emergencies. Diagnosis and Management. P. K. Bridges, D.P.M. (Pp. 195; \$12.) Charles C. Thomas. 1971.

The Anatomy of Aging in Man and Animals. Warren Andrew, M.D. (Pp. 259; £6.80.) Heinemann. 1971.

Schools of Nursing Directory 1972. Compiled

by Paulina Pepys M.A. (Oxon). (Pp. 676; £1.50.) King Edwards Hospital Fund for London. 1971.

An A.B.C. of Endocrinology. K. J. Catt, M.D. (Pp. 154; £1.) *The Lancet*. 1971.

Cleft Lip and Palate. Surgical, Dental, and Speech Aspects. Ed. William C. Grabb, M.D.,

Sheldon W. Rosenstein D.D.S., and Kenneth R. Bzoch, Ph.D. (Pp. 916; £21.) Churchill Livingstone. 1971.

X-ray Seminar Cases of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Ed. J. Malcolm McNeill, M.D., and Laurence L. Robbins, M.D. (Pp. 261; £10.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1971.

different," he commented, "if a person handed over the article to a third person to destroy or had put it in a dust-bin for disposal by the local authority when in fact the article had been returned to him."

The Lord Justice also thought it extraordinary to say that when treatment was over possession of drugs prescribed for that

treatment thereupon became illegal: "there must be very few households in which there are not some bottles kept in the back of a cupboard and forgotten about which contained drugs not consumed during treatment."

The Court certified that a point of law of general public importance was involved

and granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords, but it must be apparent that the repercussions of any decision other than that reached by the Court of Appeal would lead to inordinate difficulties and possible injustices.

1 *The Times*, 13 November, 1971.

MEDICAL NEWS

N.H.S. Staff Commission Chairman

Sir Richard Hayward, formerly Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, has accepted an invitation from Sir Keith Joseph to be the Chairman of the Staff Commission which is to be concerned with staff redeployment problems arising from the reorganization of the N.H.S. (*Supplement*, 20 November, p. 43). The Commission will function as an advisory committee until legislation has been passed to make it statutory. Other appointments will be announced as soon as possible and the Department of Health hopes that the commission will start work in the spring.

New Professor at St. Mary's

Dr. R. W. Beard has been appointed to the chair of obstetrics and gynaecology at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, from 1 April, in succession to Professor P. J. Huntingford. Dr. Beard, who is 40, qualified at Cambridge University from St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1955. After three years as gynaecologist to the R.A.F. in Singapore he returned to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, where he worked with Carl Wood on human fetal physiology and its application to the management of pregnancy and labour. In 1966 he went to the Presbyterian Hospital in New York to study fetal physiology with K. Adamson. Over the last three years he has been senior lecturer in obstetrics at King's College Hospital in the department of Professor S. G. Clayton, where he has established a system in labour for intensive care of the high-risk fetus. Recently Dr. Beard has become interested in improving techniques used for legal abortion and has started a unit for outpatient termination of early pregnancy. He is also interested in audiovisual aids for teaching and has made several educational films.



People in the News

Dr. C. E. Gordon Smith, dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Wellcome Trust. He has been a scientific adviser to the trust for the past two years.

Dr. J. Leahy Taylor, deputy secretary of the Medical Protection Society, has been appointed secretary-designate and will succeed Dr. H. A. Constable who retires in September.

Dr. Margaret Scott Wright has been appointed to the newly-established chair of nursing studies, the first in Britain, at Edinburgh University where, since 1968, she has been director of the department of nursing studies. Dr. Scott Wright, who holds a Ph.D., was previously matron of the Middlesex Hospital Teaching Group, London.

COMING EVENTS

Royal College of Physicians of London.—Teach-in session, "Respiratory Failure," 1 February. For details see advertisement on page xx.

Association of Psychiatrists in Training.—Meeting, 9 February, 7.30 p.m., Maudsley Hospital, London. Details from the secretary, Dr. J. R. Hamilton, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh EH10 5HF.

Institute of Urology.—Day seminar, "Malignant Disease of the Urinary Tract," 26 February. For details see advertisement on page xx.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

For attending lectures marked * a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

Tuesday, 25 January

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Professor J. S. Calnan: Lymphoedema.
KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.30 p.m., Dr. Maurice Pappworth: Some Aspects of Clinical Research.

Wednesday, 26 January

DUNDEE UNIVERSITY.—5 p.m., Mr. G. D. Chisholm: Systemic Effects of Renal Tumours.
INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. J. L. Verbor: Dermatoglyphics.
INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. S. W. Clarke: Cough, Sputum and Bronchial Clearance.
INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—(1) 6 p.m., Dr. G. Kazantzis: Toxicity of Mercury—Metabolic, Clinical and Epidemiological Aspects; (2) 7 p.m., Professor J. B. Cavanagh: Neuropathology of Methyl Mercury Poisoning.
INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—5 p.m., Dr. A. M. Joekes: Management of Acute Renal Failure.
LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At University College Gower Street, W.C.1, 5.30 p.m., Professor N. Le Douarin (Nantes): Differentiation of Neural Crest Cells Studied by a New Biological Labelling Technique.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Professor B. Cohen: The Nature of Dental Caries.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. L. Welt (North Carolina): Significance of Concentration of Serum Sodium.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS.—2.30 p.m., Sir William Jackson Pope memorial lecture by Professor F. G. Young, F.R.S.: Biochemistry in Retrospect and Prospect.
WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL, LONDON.—11.30 a.m., Dr. D. K. Peters: Immunological Basis of Nephritis.

Thursday, 27 January

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.—At Medical Buildings, Foresterhill, 5 p.m., Professor A. E. H. Emery: Prenatal Diagnosis.
LONDON JEWISH HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 11 Chandos Street, London W.1, 8.15 p.m., Dr. G. Stern: Parkinsonism.

Friday, 28 January

CHARLES BURNS CLINIC, BIRMINGHAM.—At Queensbridge Road, Moseley, 4 p.m., Dr. D. T. Maclay: Growth of Child Psychiatry.

Sunday, 30 January

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—10 a.m., Dr. M. I. Grossman (Los Angeles): Clinical Assessment of Gastrointestinal Hormones; 11.15 a.m., case presentations.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At an extraordinary meeting of the council held on 12 January, with Sir Thomas Holmes Sellers, president, in the chair, diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following candidates:

K. A. Walker, J. Gerwat, T. B. H. Riley, P. M. Ll. James, D. K. C. Cooper, I. D. Hyde, C. Rees, G. B. Coombes, A. J. Hamilton, J. P. P. Donnelly, P. J. R. Boyd, C. J. Fontaine, C. P. Jardine-Brown, J. M. Wilkinson, R. F. Kemp, N. A. Mackinnon, C. M. Ward, J. Ll. Edwards, R. A. Hitchings, D. P. Leberman, P. K. Peace, Vanessa M. Wright, R. D. Rosin, M. W. Salah, S. A. Taylor, A. J. M. Brodribb, J. S. Blackburne, E. J. Bowen-Jones, S. A. L. Cesay, P. D. Gooder, R. E. Jenner, Rita C. Radford, W. R. Richardson, J. M. Buchanan, M. J. Daly, R. J. George, D. H. Harrison, P. J. Jeffery, V. K. Mathur, I. McK. Miller, J. H. Topham, F. Afshar, A. P. Freeland, I. M. Hutton, B. F. Ribeiro, R. J. Morgan, J. H. Newman, H. A. A. I. Metwalli, M. Grippaudo, J. R. Kirkpatrick, V. Balasundaram, B. Forouhar, R. J. Marshman, S. K. Mitra, S. N. Ghosh, B. D. Maudgil, K. Thilagarajah, S. Vasudevan, F. Y. Yacoub, S. H. Alkhashab, A. M. Gottlieb, M. S. S. Ponnampalam, H. A. Rasoul, R. A. Benjamin, T. K. Bose, S. P. Brumley, S. A. W. Gunawardena, G. J. Olive, O. Olulode, P. J. Pownall, H. S. Ahmad, P. R. Burgess, K. M. H. Butt, K. Conrad, M. R. Q. Davies, A. G. Donovan, J. Dudgeon, M. G. Glasspool, J. Hunter, P. J. Moran, M. R. Reddy, V. Sivagnanavel, J. D. Taylor, M. A. El G. Akb El Bab, A. N. Al-Aiyoubi, A. M. L. Beligaswatte, P. E. Boulton, R. M. Brown, P. Den Houting, H. C. Dhayagude, A. H. Doctor, V. V. Karkhanis, G. R. Kerur, G. R. Manna, M. C. Mason, U. Mendis, A. N. Pal, E. W. Wassef, P. C. Wellings, E. El-D. H. Abdel-Meguid, M. Ahsan, S. A. Ali, K. I. A. Banks, K. M. Butt, W. D. Bye, J. D. Colley, R. P. Craig, J. C. W. Evans, L. P. Fielding, C. H. A. Fong, K. G. Gupta, N. J. M. Harry, T. J. Herbert, A. L. Houghton, F. R. Jackman, W. G. Knapper, S. L. Liston, R. A. Patel, R. J. Payten, K. W. Pearson, D. E. Price, M. S. Rao, M. Sivanantham, G. C. Slack, N. N. Sorour, H. Stephenson, N. Y. Wijemanne, S. Ahmad, D. L. C. Cheung, M. J. N. de Quadros, W. J. Dinning, C. R. Elmes, A. Ghaffar, J. Gunasegaram, R. K. Gupta, T. C. Kenefick, S. A. Khan, W. L. M. Kinn, J. R. Lee, J. T. Little, D. J. Lucas, A. Miller, M. W. E. Moran, S. Nair, D. C. Parr, T. Ramanathan, S. K. Ray, J. R. Rhind, I. L. Rosenberg, K. K. Sachdeva, R. A. P. Scott, L. K. Sharma, A. T. Soudan, M. Talib, K. M. Tu, L. Vukovic, J. G. Bennett, Janis Briedis, S. K. Das, B. A. De Sousa, A. P. Dwyer, R. W. Girdwood, R. C. F. Gray, R. A. Greenhalgh, A. R. Griffin, P. H. Griffin, M. J. Gurney, S. K. Haddad, J. D. Hains, M. H. M. S. Halawa, E. F. F. Hanson, N. H. Hills, D. R. B. Jones, J. C. Kelly, H. Khan, J. McQueen, W. Miller, El T. El M. Mukhtar, R. Norton, W. D. Richmond, H. E. Stone, P. A. Svkes, H. O. Thomas, Jean G. C. Turner, C. E. Ackroyd, A. I. Bookallil, R. H. Chapman, J. Davies-Humphreys, R. P. Drummond, T. H. Dunninham, P. D. M. Ellis, W. P. R. Gibson, Hamidullah, J. C. Hammonds, D. R. Harper, N. Hla, W. B. Hurst, P. E. M. Jarrett, C. Lawson-Smith, I. MacLennan, Moiz-Ud-Din, J. R. Nixon, A. L. Prior, R. O. Quin, K. Raikulasingam, S. Raptis, J. G. Roberts, J. S. Simpson, D. J. T. Webster, R. C. N. Williamson, R. Y. Wilson, I. Taylor.

Sir George Godber delivered an address to the new diplomates.

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