

Chemotherapy of Cancer

La Chimiothérapie des Cancers (Leucémies, Hématosarcomes, Tumeurs Solides). 2nd edition. By Georges Mathé. (Pp. 274; illustrated. 59 F.) Paris: Expansion Scientifique Française. 1968.

Chemotherapy has become, since its initiation about a quarter of a century ago, an established means of the treatment of some malignant diseases. In spite of the fact that all chemotherapeutic substances, with the notable exception of L-asparaginase, which is under investigation at the present time, have no specific affinity for malignant cells, they are being used with considerable success in the palliative therapy of cancer and most particularly in the therapy of generalized malignant disorders.

Professor Mathé, who is well known for his many contributions in the field of chemotherapy as well as in experimental medicine, has in this book given an account of the scope and possibilities of this aspect of cancer therapy. Mathé holds the view that chemotherapy should be prescribed not only by a few specialized haematologists but by all those who are in any way concerned with cancer therapy—from surgeons to general practitioners. It is to these latter that this work aims to introduce the subject.

The book, which has doubled in size since its first edition in 1966, is divided into four main sections. The first introduces briefly the biological and pharmacological basis of cancer chemotherapy. In the section on clinical pharmacology various chemotherapeutic substances are discussed with respect to their administration and dosage, indications, and therapeutic and toxic effects. The third section deals with general principles of cancer chemotherapy and its place in relation to surgery and radiotherapy, discusses various methods for obtaining maximal therapeutic effect under particular conditions (that is, local and regional therapy, isolation of patients in aseptic rooms), and emphasizes the possible role of immune mechanisms in controlling growth of cancer. It is worth mentioning here the quite remarkable effect of active immunotherapy which the author and

his colleagues obtained in cases of acute lymphatic leukaemias. In the final section indications for chemotherapy are specified with an emphasis on leukaemias and other haematopoietic neoplasia.

This book is quite up to date and includes some unpublished information and many recent references—some even from 1968. The text is well illustrated with numerous figures, diagrams, and photographs, gives structural formulae for most chemotherapeutic compounds, and contains a number of useful tables. At the end of the book there is a very useful list of chemical and proprietary names of chemotherapeutic drugs. This helps the reader, among other things, to find out that different names were occasionally used for the same drug in different sections of the book. This book is a valuable source of information not only for the general practitioner, for whom it was originally intended, but also for many specialists dealing with the therapy of cancer.

V. S. ŠLJIVIĆ.

Sex Education and Counselling

Sex Errors of the Body. Dilemmas, Education, Counselling. By John Money. (Pp. 145+xiv; illustrated. 47s. 6d.) London: Oxford University Press. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1968.

This well-constructed and lavishly illustrated volume, written by an acknowledged authority in the field of sexual anomalies, should be a welcome addition to the literature, yet I find myself unable to recommend it to any of the groups for whom it was explicitly prepared. It is intended as a primer for those "professionally responsible" for sex education and counselling—namely, family physicians, clinical psychologists, teachers, and clergymen—and for the layman in the belief that "the study of sexual handicap serves as a healthy corrective to the old-time Puritanism that tends to equate modern sex education with moral restraint."

The need to involve the wider community

in a variety of forms of self-help is now generally accepted, and as a profession we are gradually coming to terms with the insatiable curiosity of the general public, but in both of these fields we must retain a corporate professional responsibility. Traditional advisers such as teachers and clergy now include counselling as a part of their professional training, while organizations such as the marriage guidance councils and the Samaritans are constantly extending their provision of help to people in distress. Increasing professionalism in these activities leads to the development of formal training and a consequent demand for both appropriate texts and expert consultation in cases of difficulty. Problems of normal sexuality and the vicissitudes of the marital relationship are by their sheer volume beyond the resources of existing services, and provide rich and varied opportunities for help from the educator and counsellor. To extend such activities to the field of gross sexual anomaly would in my view be totally inappropriate, for the needs of the affected individual can be determined only by a comprehensive physical and psychological examination. The diagnosis and management—including sex counselling—of such individuals is clearly and almost exclusively a medical problem. We should perhaps examine just how adequately we are dealing with this and related problems, both in training and in practice, but the deficiencies and responsibility for remedies lie with the medical profession.

The present volume could have provided a useful guide for the student and practitioner, since it is concise and informative, but in an attempt to meet the needs of the lay reader it resorts at times to gross oversimplification and inappropriate language, while the absence of references or bibliography is a serious deficiency. For the layman the wealth of detail may serve to confuse rather than inform, and the serious reader does not require the intimate and often irrelevant clinical photographs. Perhaps the author and his colleagues can be persuaded to produce an authoritative medical text which could make a significant contribution to medical education.

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Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Brain Damage by Inborn Errors of Metabolism. Edited by H. M. van Praag. (Pp. 126; illustrated. Fl. 12.50.) Haarlem: De Erven F. Bohn N.V. 1968.

Drug Dependence. A Study for Nurses and Social Workers. By J. H. Willis, M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 127. 18s.) London: Faber & Faber. 1969.

Angiography of Cerebral Circulation. By Kurt Decker and Herbert Backmund. (Pp. 76+vii; illustrated. DM. 48.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1969.

Great Teachers of Surgery in the Past. A Collection of Articles which have appeared in the British Journal of Surgery over the period January 1964–January 1968. (Pp. 147; illustrated. Paper 30s., cloth 37s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1969.

The Day of St. Anthony's Fire. By John G. Fuller. (Pp. 310. 40s.) London: Hutchinson. 1969.

The Surgical Clinics of North America. Trauma. Edited by Clarence J. Berne, M.D. Vol. 48, No. 6. (Pp. 1185–1477+ix; illustrated. No price given.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1968.

Epilepsy. By William Pryse-Phillips, M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 96+iv; illustrated. 18s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1969.

Early Synovectomy in Rheumatoid Arthritis. Proceedings of a symposium held in Amsterdam, 12–15 April 1967. Edited by W. Hijmans, W. D. Paul, and H. Herschel. (Pp. 239+xv; illustrated. 126s.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1969.

Applied Neurochemistry. Edited by A. N. Davison, B.Pharm., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.P.S., and John Dobbing, B.Sc., M.B., M.C.Path. (Pp. 442+xi; illustrated. 90s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1968.

Advances in Enzyme Regulation, Volume 6. Edited by George Weber. (Pp. 517+xiv; illustrated. 140s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1968.

Neuro-ophthalmology. Volume IV. Compiled and edited by J. Lawson Smith, M.D. (Pp. 413+xvi; illustrated. £14 3s. 6d.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. London: Henry Kimpton. 1968.

The Surgical Management of Ulcerative Colitis. By Frank Couper Walker, Ch.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.Ed. (Pp. 147+x; illustrated. 50s.) London: Butterworths. 1969.

Die Kardioversion. By Martin Friedemann. (Pp. 163; illustrated. DM. 38.) Bern: Verlag Hans Huber.

Advances in Surgery. Vol. 3. Edited by Claude E. Welch. (Pp. 404; illustrated. 140s.) Chichester, Sussex: John Wiley. 1969.

Determinants of Infant Behaviour—IV. Edited by B. M. Foss. (Pp. 304+xiv; illustrated. 70s.) London: Methuen. 1969.