

thirds of them think that he should initiate discussion about it with anybody who has just had a baby. He is, in fact, little more than a prescriber of the "pill" which he often does without first examining his patient and discussing her anxieties about its side effects. His knowledge of other methods of family planning is minimal and his estimate of the proportion of his patients who are actually taking the pill is greatly over the mark.

The author ends with the hope that this book will encourage more general practitioners, health visitors, and other professionals to offer a wider range of advice. But further stimulus is needed. A family planning list, restricted like the obstetric list to properly trained general practitioners paid by item of service fees, would provide it. Making skilled advice easily accessible to everyone would prevent most of the unwanted legitimate pregnancies and reduce the number of illegitimate ones. And, what is more, the reduction in obstetric and therapeutic abortion costs would more than finance it.

ANDREW SMITH.

## Treating Reticuloses

**Leukemia and Lymphoma.** Ed. James F. Holland, M.D. *et al.* (Pp. 185; \$12.75.) Grune & Stratton. 1970.

The contents of this book previously appeared as a number of articles in *Seminars in Haematology* in 1969. The first part of the book contains chapters on the genetic aspects, clinical epidemiology, cytochemical aspects, and treatment of acute leukaemia. The second part has four chapters devoted to the treatment of chronic myelocytic leukaemia, chronic lymphatic leukaemia, and the radiotherapy and chemotherapy of lymphoma. Both parts are preceded by introductions by the authors. The editors of *Seminars* are to be congratulated on their decision to produce these excellent articles as a book and so make them more generally available. Although this book is heavily biased in the direction of therapy it reflects

the great strides that have been made in the last few years not only in the introduction of new drugs but in the more effective use of drugs used previously.

It would be invidious to distinguish between contributors, but the chapters on the treatment of acute leukaemia by E. S. Henderson and chronic myelocytic leukaemia by D. A. G. Galton are probably the most authoritative reviews available. The critical account of genetic aspects of leukaemia by W. W. Zuelzer and D. E. Cox conclude that the three major forms of leukaemia are genetically unrelated. They can find no evidence for genetic factors operating in chronic myelocytic leukaemia, and believe that genetic factors play only a minor role in chronic lymphatic leukaemia and acute leukaemia. They state that results in this field are meagre and contradictory, and it is interesting therefore to see that J. F. Fraumeni jun. in a later chapter on epidemiology in the same volume implies a greater role for genetic factors than these authors.

The cytochemical aspects of leukaemia and lymphoma are discussed by F. Hayhoe who, besides defining the role of these techniques in the diagnosis and control of treatment, gives an interesting insight into how cytochemical techniques may be used in basic research in these diseases. The radiotherapy and chemotherapy of lymphoma and other reticulososes are discussed by R. E. Johnson, J. E. Ultman, and D. D. Nixon. Useful consideration is given to present problems such as the role of radiotherapy versus chemotherapy in stage III Hodgkin's disease, and the new approaches of intensive systemic therapy combined with extended radiotherapy in lymphosarcoma and reticulum cell sarcoma. R. T. Silver completes the review of therapy with a critical account of the therapy available for chronic lymphatic leukaemia.

This book is recommended to anyone who wants a clear, concise, and up-to-date review of the subject.

J. S. MALPAS.

R. E. O. WILLIAMS.

## Books Received

*Books noticed here may be reviewed later.*

**Textbook of Vectorcardiography.** Richard J. Kennedy, M.D. *et al.* (Pp. 401; 163s.) Harper & Row. 1970.

**Basic Concepts of Anatomy and Physiology: A Programmed Study.** Ed. W. B. Dean *et al.* (Pp. 346; 45s.) Lippincott. U.K.: Blackwell. 1970.

**The Slipped Disc.** James Cyriax, M.D. (Pp. 167; 42s.) Gower Press. 1970.

**The Leaves of Spring: A Study in the Dialectics of Madness.** Aaron Esterson, D.P.M. (Pp. 278; 63s.) Tavistock Publications. 1970.

**Young Children in Hospital.** 2nd edn. James Robertson. (Pp. 155; 16s. Paperback.) Tavistock Publications. 1970.

**Ocular Examination: Basis and Technique.** Arthur H. Keeney, M.D. (Pp. 272; 137s.) Henry Kimpton. 1970.

**Modern Trends in Vascular Surgery.** Ed. J. A. Gillespie, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 319; 106s.) Butterworths. 1970.

**Clinical Virology: The Evaluation and Management of Human Viral Infections.** Ed. Robert Debré, M.D., and Josette Celers, M.D. (Pp. 871; 323s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

**The Basis of Motor Control: Integrating the Activity of Muscles, Alpha and Gamma Motoneurons and Their Leading Control Systems.** Ragnar Granit. (Pp. 346; 100s.) Academic Press. 1970.

**Morphologic Pathology of the Alimentary Canal: Gross, Radiographic and Microscopic.** A. Valdes-Dapena, M.D. and G. Stein, M.D. (Pp. 902; 255s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

**Regulation of Hematopoiesis: Vol. 1. Red Cell Production. Vol. 2. White Cell and Platelet Production.** Ed. Albert S. Gordon. (Pp. 1658; \$78.50. a set.) Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1970.

**A Textbook of General Physiology.** 4th edn. Vols. 1 & 2. Hugh Davson, D.Sc. (Pp. 1694; 240s. a set.) J. & A. Churchill. 1970.

**Marriage Observed.** J. H. Wallis. (Pp. 207; 45s.) Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1970.

## Under the Microscope

**A History of Medical Bacteriology and Immunology.** W. D. Foster, M.D., M.R.C.Path. (Pp. 232; 40s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Medical bacteriology now has a history of well over a century, but the subject has lacked a recent account of its development. Dr. Foster's book provides, in relatively short compass, a readable account of the discovery of the principal pathogenic bacteria and of the methods for their identification.

The greater part of the book deals with the discoveries of the late nineteenth century, when hardly a year went by without the identification of some new pathogen. 1938 is taken as the end date, so excluding the main developments in antibiotics and the revelations of molecular biology. The 20th century up to 1938 is seen to be a flat period in the development of medical microbiology and no true account could make much of it exciting. But history should concern itself also with inquiry into the reason for flat periods and indicate the areas from which subsequent developments were to spring. One has the feeling that Dr. Foster gains a much greater thrill from the giants of the golden age, whose work is presented in considerable detail. Even so, it is surprising that neither Fleming nor penicillin receive a mention.

Two criticisms can be offered of this useful book, one on content and one on presentation. Though setting out to describe the medical aspects of bacteriology, there seems too little account of the general medical context of the bacteriologists' work; we are told what they did and thought but not how they fared in the environment of the hospital and clinic nor how their work seemed to their contemporaries. Even so, the book is certainly valuable and would be a pleasure to read were it not for the quite remarkable number of misprints.

**Clinical Cancer Chemotherapy Including Ambulatory Infusion.** Ed. Robert D. Sullivan, M.D. (Pp. 314; \$23.75.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

**Child Life and Health.** 5th edn. Ed. Ross G. Mitchell, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 586; 120s.) J. & A. Churchill. 1970.

**Electrical Impedance Plethysmography: The Electrical Resistive Measure of the Blood Pulse Volume, Peripheral and Central Blood Flow.** 2nd edn. Jan Nyboer, M.D. (Pp. 390; \$22.00.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

**Skin Signs of Systemic Disease.** Irwin M. Braverman, M.D. (Pp. 448; 251s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

**Beyond the Ivory Tower: The Frontiers of Public and Private Science.** Sir Solly Zuckerman, M.D., F.R.S. (Pp. 244; 50s.) Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 1970.

**The World through Blunted Sight: An Inquiry into the Influence of Defective Vision on Art and Character.** Patrick Trevor-Roper, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 191; 84s.) Thames & Hudson. 1970.

**Adam's Rib: Essays on Biblical Medicine.** Simon S. Levin, M.R.C.P. (Pp. 180; \$6.95.) Geron-X. 1970.