very large number of neurological disorders which are likely to bring patients to orthopaedic surgeons on account of deformity, pain, or loss of function.

Inevitably many of the descriptions are brief; infantile progressive spinal muscular atrophy, for example, is dealt with in less than a page, and 'lead palsy' is discussed in 12 lines. On the other hand, 'spinal dysrhaphysm' and 'pes cavus', both subjects of much more importance to the orthopaedic surgeon, receive relatively extensive treatment.

In almost every line there is evidence of Paul Sandifer's immense experience. This is well illustrated in the first sentence of the book in which the floppy baby is described as follows: 'Babies are sometimes born so limp, floppy and weak that, when handled, they dangle like a rag doll'; or in his description of the changing appearance of children suffering from progressive spina muscular atrophy as their disease progresses. It is typical of the author that the major criticism of his book should be that it is too modest. It fulfils a need but would probably have been still more useful had it been three or four times as long and accompanied by illustrations. The volume is well printed and there is a small but well-chosen bibliography, but no index.

Der Blutmonocyt. Morphologie—Herkunft—Funktion und Prospective Potenz—Monocytenleukämie. By Lutz-Dietrich Leder. (Pp. xi + 293; illustrated and tables. DM 98; $ 24.50). Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1967.

This volume resembles a lengthy Ph.D. thesis. It comprises a text of some 80,000 words, supported by a full bibliography of more than 800 references. The essential content of the text concerns the application of esterase cytochemistry as a marker for monocytes and their precursors in normal subjects and in disease states, including monocytic leukaemias. By the use of α-naphthyl acetate as a substrate for a non-specific esterase largely confined to monocytes, the author has determined that normal bone-marrow contains about 5% of monocytes and about 1% of promonocytes. When naphthol-ASD-chloroacetate is used as substrate, granulocytes react most strongly, but cells believed to be immature monocytes also show positivity. From a rather elaborate analysis of esterase cytochemistry with these substrates and also with naphthol-AS acetate, the conclusion is drawn that monocytes are of myeloid origin, probably deriving from promyelocytes. The Rebuck skin-window technique has been used to study macrophages in inflammation and a combination of cytological and esterase-cytochemical methods lead the author to conclude that the macrophages here and in many other sites may be derived from monocytes by transformation.

With regard to the participation of monocytes in leukaemia, the cytochemical evidence adduced from esterase studies suggests that mixed myelomonocytic forms make up about a third of all acute myeloid cases, but that purely monocytic forms of the so-called Schilling variety are of doubtful existence.

Much of this research appears in line with other cytochemical studies of recent years, and the general conclusions are in conformity with the views of most haematologists who now accept the monocyte as a myeloid cell; but the author is perhaps too ready to allow his particular cytochemical methods a degree of specificity they may not deserve. His derivation of the monocyte line from promyelocytes is a case in point; use of the Sudan Black reaction rather than peroxidase in parallel with esterase reactions might have led to a different interpretation. But the experimental work as a whole makes a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the genesis and functions of the monocyte.

Surrounding and amplifying the original content of the book is an exhaustive review of the literature on all aspects of the monocyte. There can be few papers referring to this cell not mentioned in the text and listed in the bibliography. The book is well produced and adequately illustrated.

Pathology of Infancy and Childhood. By John M. Kissane and Margaret G. Smith. (Pp. xii + 1082; 703 figures + tables. 355s. 6d.). St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. London: Henry Kimpton. 1967.

This is a comprehensive account of paediatric 'special pathology', arranged in organ systems with the exception of sections on growth and metabolism, and infections. Each system is introduced by a short account of its embryology; each chapter is followed by a large classified bibliography. The index is, on the whole, good. The book is beautifully presented, with many good photographs and a few excellent line drawings which could have been used much more where suitable photographs were not available.

The main reason it will not be widely read is that it is much too expensive; and it is too expensive because it is very ambitious. The preface offers 'a reference work for medical students and postgraduate trainees . . . general pathologists, paediatricians, family physicians etc.' An attempt has truly been made to provide such a work, with the inevitable result that for each of these groups, the book is less than ideal. Only professional pathologists and paediatricians will consider buying it for their personal use; both will find it, on the whole, too superficial in its consideration of the major problems of the subject.

The pathologist will contend that this failure of emphasis results from the inclusion of some 'adult' pathology, and of titbits of specialized (e.g. dermatological) pathology, both of which are fully treated in other works in his possession. The paediatrician will blame it partly on the space occupied by the multiplicity of descriptions, and more especially photographs, of 'collector's items'. Both of these views are valid, and point to a major part of the cost of the book; this will not, however, deter the compilers of libraries for paediatricians and pathologists in training, who will rightly conclude that such a major work should not be missing from their shelves.

Der Blutmonocyt. Morphologie––Herkunft––Funktion und Prospective Potenz––Monocytenleukämie

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Notes