BOOK REVIEWS

a major contribution to medical knowledge. This excellent comprehensive monograph is evidence that the initial hopes have been fulfilled, as it demonstrates the value of collecting together cases of a rare disease and investigating them in great detail.

The material, which is well presented, is in five sections: historical, clinical, pathological, biochemical, and epidemiological. In each section the bibliography is full and up to date (end of 1963). In the clinical section 15 cases are described in great detail and the pathological section contains detailed histopathological and biochemical information. The biochemical section starts with very clear formulae and then continues with a full description of enzymatic activity and the structure and biosynthesis of gangliosides. One minor criticism concerns Fig. 12 (page 94) on the distribution of serum sialic acid levels associated with various protein functions, where the key is incorrect. The epidemiological section is fascinating as it details the value of fructose-1-phosphate aldolase as a method of detecting heterozygotes and gives information about the frequency and carrier rates for the disease amongst the Jewish and non-Jewish populations.

This monograph is recommended to University or Research departments in paediatrics and pathology, as it is an excellent reference book containing information essential to anyone working in this field. Dr. Volk and his colleagues are to be congratulated on their presentation.


This book contains most of the papers given at a postgraduate Symposium in Cambridge in August 1964. The editor and publishers are to be congratulated on producing the written record of the meeting so quickly and elegantly. Of the 22 papers, over half are on aspects of cytology, electron microscopy, and cell growth and division, while only one is concerned with the therapy of leukaemia, this being a paper by Mathé and Amiel on the treatment of acute leukaemia by bone-marrow grafting. Unfortunately the speed of publication necessitated the exclusion of a paper on the clinical use of Vinca alkaloids, and contributions on the drug treatment of leukaemia are conspicuously absent—a reflection, perhaps, of the slow rate of advance in this subject in recent years.

Those concerned with the clinical care of leukaemia will find much else to interest them, however, notably an excellent short critical review by E. G. Knox on the space-time distribution of leukaemia, stressing the limitations of the statistical methods employed, and a review of other epidemiological aspects by Richard Doll. There are three papers on cytogenetic aspects of leukaemias and related conditions, a short critical survey by R. J. C. Harris of work on the pathology and aetiology of Burkitt’s lymphoma, and two papers on virus and mycoplasma studies in human and animal leukaemias by Dmochowski and Harris—the former beautifully illustrated by 75 electron micrographs which have unfortunately been arranged in the wrong order, so that they are difficult to relate to the test.

This volume serves a most useful purpose in bringing together the results of recent leukaemia research by workers in many different disciplines. It will be welcomed by all those who are actively concerned in this broad subject, and can be recommended as stimulating reading to anyone with a general interest in the problems of leukaemia.


This beautifully illustrated atlas depicts the radiological differential diagnosis of rare pulmonary and mediastinal diseases. Only two years have elapsed since the first edition appeared, clearly indicating the popularity of this work in Germany.

A logical approach to the analysis of the radiographs has been attempted by arranging the material according to the radiographic appearances, which has lost something of its effectiveness by the indefinite terms employed. An excellent feature is the summary of the clinical presentation and results of other special investigations which accompany each radiograph.

Selection of material for a book of this nature presents obvious difficulties and not everyone will agree with the authors’ choice and emphasis. It would perhaps have been an improvement to have listed at the beginning of each chapter both common and rare causes of the various radiographic appearances under which the diseases are segregated. As it is, a number of rare pulmonary lesions such as histoplasmosis and other mycoses have been omitted. The method of classification of the index is also an unusual one, and not easy to use.

On the whole this book contains a valuable store of illustrative material which should be useful to radiologists, physicians, and surgeons interested in chest diseases. It is obviously of limited value to a paediatrician.


With the disappearance in many countries of destructive diseases of the lung, such as tuberculosis, chest physicians have been able to devote their attention to those disorders of the lung where more subtle disturbances of function were responsible for the patients’ symptoms, conditions such as emphysema or the effect on the lung of heart disorders. This has brought about a revolution in chest medicine over the past 10 or 15 years; and the surprisingly long neglected subject of pulmonary physiology has made rapid strides.

Many paediatricians, brought up in an era before this renaissance took place, will be largely ignorant of what means now exist, beyond the use of their five senses aided by the stethoscope and x-ray, for the appraisal of lung disorders.