embraces a wide review of current thought and writings in the English speaking world, and in several European countries, together with a good bibliography.

The book is essentially one for the specialist surgeon dealing with this intractable problem, but it does present for other clinicians a good account of the ill effects of the spinal deformities on the thoracic and abdominal viscera. For all readers, it suffers from poor reproduction of x-ray films, important for a full understanding of the text. The numerous clear line diagrams are, by contrast, very helpful. If more than selected chapters are read, the repetition of points made previously can become tedious.

Much of the author’s own work has consisted of studies of the forces that could cause deformities and of their effects on the spine, and these subjects are particularly well covered. Most standard methods of non-operative and operative treatment are discussed with particularly good descriptions of thoracic epiphysiodesis and lumbar spine wedge resection. It is for work on these two operations, in combination with other methods, that Professor Roaf is best known.

No attempt is made to give a statistical evaluation to the results of this work, as it is felt that the prognosis in any individual patient is insufficiently clear and the methods of measurement too liable to error for such an exercise to be of value. Indeed, it is for stating clearly how little is known of the aetiology of scoliosis and for asking so many questions, for which our present-day answers are so inadequate, that this monograph is chiefly useful. One hopes that in a few years Professor Roaf will be able to produce a second edition which will be able to give a more definite guide on aetiology, prevention, and treatment of scoliosis.


This volume comprises the 29 papers presented at the International Wenner-Gren Symposium on Comparative Leukaemia Research held at Stockholm in September 1965. The symposium covers three main aspects in leukaemia research, viral leukaemogenesis, immunology, and epidemiology.

Each main aspect is introduced with a paper of general interest. Stoker’s introductory paper on cell interaction with oncogenic viruses is a good and valuable summary. Kaplan’s account of viral leukaemogenesis in mammals reviews the work on this subject over the past four years. The distinction between vertically transmitted and exogenous murine leukaemia is becoming clearer, and as Kaplan says, this may possibly have parallels in man with important implications for active immunization for the exogenous type. There follow papers on viral aspects of human, bovine, and avian leukaemia. Sevoia’s paper on avian lymphomatosis is especially worth reading.

The therapeutic implications of tumour immunology are obvious, and Hillemann reviews the experimental aspects of cancer control by immunological procedures in a long and detailed paper. Dutcher’s account, ‘Autoimmunity and Leukaemia’ is also interesting, if somewhat speculative. The remaining third of the book is devoted to papers on epidemiology and leukaemia. Clemmesen describes epidemiological aspects of human leukaemia. However, Burkitt’s tumour is given scanty coverage in this paper, and the paragraphs on chromosomal aberrations, ionizing radiation, and viruses are too sketchy to be suitable for this type of monograph. In other mammals epidemiology has provided much valuable evidence in favour of a viral aetiology in leukaemia, and an extensive paper by Marshak et al. covers most of the published work in this field since Engelbreth-Holm’s famous monograph and stresses particularly the recent work on bovine leukaemia. A short discussion follows each paper.

This volume serves a useful purpose in bringing together topics of research in leukaemia from widely differing disciplines. However, the contents of this type of symposium are of necessity ephemeral and it hardly finds a place in a purely clinical paediatric library. None the less there is much in it of theoretical interest, and workers whose research is related to any aspect of leukaemia or tumour biology should find something new.

**Culture, Health, and Disease.** Social and cultural influences on health programmes in developing countries. By MARGARET READ. (Pp. xiv + 142; 3 figures + 1 table. 25s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1966.

When the health and habits of developing countries are studied, Western specialists (from what have cynically been called the ‘overdeveloped’ countries) ‘regard those who fail to act in accord with their own practices as being ignorant and superstitious’. The author of this book discusses how and why people in developing countries react to health programmes and health services; and she suggests how the barriers of communication between them and scientifically trained health workers from other countries can be overcome, largely by using the tools of the social, anthropological, and behavioural sciences.

In Part I traditional systems of care in sickness are discussed, including the role of the traditional healer and his relationship with modern medical personnel. Part II describes social groups, cultural patterns, ritual, and religion in health practices. Part III brings together the ingredients; it shows how priorities for a health programme can be decided and the stages in its acceptance. It outlines the training of professional and auxiliary health personnel, and stresses the need for liaison between field and research work.

The author was Professor of Education in Tropical Areas (University of London), and this book is distilled from her first-hand knowledge of health problems in Africa, South-East Asia, and India.