no means confined to data arising from experimental thymectomy.

To cover such a wide field in such a short space (78 pages) has led to a feeling of compression, and some aspects get scant treatment—for instance, there is little discussion of the effect of thymectomy in immunity to different organisms, and the very difficult and intriguing problem of auto-immune phenomena in thymectomized animals is only just mentioned. But as a short source of detatched criticism of the apparently divergent views on the functions of the thymus, for paediatricians whose interest and critical faculties have both been excited by the many recent clinical papers in this field, this book can be strongly recommended. But they won't end up with the comforting delusion that they know the whole story.

Recent Results in Cancer Research. Vol. 13. Tumours in Children. Edited by H. B. MARSDEN and J. K. STEWARD. (Pp. xii + 347; 258 figures + tables. D.M. 72; $18.00). Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1968.

This volume is one of a series of monographs on various aspects of cancer, published for the International Union against Cancer. It is an up-to-date clinical and pathological account of the tumours of childhood, based mainly on the experience of the Manchester Children's Tumour Registry which was started in 1953 and now has records of more than 1400 cases. The 14 contributors include members of the Manchester group and other workers, such as H. B. Stallard and the late Saul Keidan, who have special experience in various aspects of children's tumours.

Tumours are now second to accidents in the list of main causes of death in children aged 1 to 15 years in both the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. Nevertheless, apart from the leukaemias, tumours in childhood are relatively uncommon. For example, other than brain tumours, no hospital region in this country has more than 50 children with non-leukaemic tumours, or more than 6 children with Wilms' tumour, each year. In England and Wales between 1953 and 1962, the 3759 fatal cases of non-leukaemic tumours in children were treated in 601 hospitals—0·6 cases per hospital per year. In the opening chapter of this book these figures are used to make the point that the treatment of tumours in childhood must be centralized in big cities without regard to hospital regions. Centres would then have sufficient patients to employ specialist teams who would be able to gain experience and evaluate treatment methods.

Each group of tumours is featured in a separate chapter. Pathology, clinical features, treatment, and prognosis are discussed in detail with excellent and profuse illustrations, and there are numerous references. As might be expected from a world expert, the chapter by H. B. Stallard on retinoblastoma is outstanding.

For those who are not fortunate enough to be within referral distance of centres like Manchester, and therefore have to treat their own 0·6 cases a year, this work is a mine of useful information. The sections on treatment, however, necessarily reflect the present lack of decisive evidence as to which are the methods of choice. It might have been more helpful for the amateur therapist if these discursive reviews of treatment had been followed by a brief summary of the methods of treatment favoured by the authors at the present time.

It is a great credit to the Manchester team that they should have been invited to contribute to this international series of monographs on cancer. They have responded by producing a unique work of reference which should achieve international recognition. No medical library should be without it.

Torticollis in Infancy and Childhood. Sternomastoid Fibrosis and the Sternomastoid 'Tumour'. By PETER G. JONES. (Pp. xvi + 138; illustrated + tables. $12.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

At first sight, 138 pages devoted to the subject of torticollis in infancy and childhood might seem excessive. But first and foremost this is a work of scholarship, beautifully produced by Charles C. Thomas in the Pediatric Surgical Monograph Series.

The published work from Hippocrates to the present day is carefully appraised and considered in the light of the author's considerable personal experience of torticollis. The meat of the book is his prospective study of 99 patients, over a period of 6 years, with additional information gained from a further 156 patients included where relevant.

These cases are considered in great detail and the natural history of the condition and its relation to plagiocephaly and neonatal scoliosis is established. Many cherished and well-known views (and several lesser known ones), concerning the aetiology of the condition, are laid to rest, though Mr. Jones is unable himself to tell us the cause of this perplexing condition. He does, however, give a rational scheme of management.

Finally this work is a model of clinical research, which others engaged in similar projects could profitably follow.

The Causes of Blindness in Childhood. A Study of 776 Children with Severe Visual Handicaps. By G. R. FRASER and A. I. FRIEDMANN. (Pp. xvii + 245; illustrated + tables. 114s.) London: Oxford University Press; Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1968.

This book reports the results of an investigation into the causes of blindness in children attending schools for the visually handicapped; the majority were registered as blind but some were partially sighted. Approximately 23% of the blind child population of England and Wales was examined, but the sample was not entirely representative as very few of the ineducable blind were seen, and the 0–4 age-group was under-represented. None the less, this is a very impressive and important document, and the authors stress genetic and biological