Book Reviews

Medical Cyclotrons in Nuclear Medicine. Eds. A. N. Serafini and J. E. Beaver (1977). Basel: S. Karger. 202 pp. US $44.00 net.

This publication is Vol. 4 of Progress in Nuclear Medicine, being the proceedings of the 4th Medical Cyclotron Users Conference, Miami Beach, Florida, March 1976. It consists of 10 papers on "Production Aspects", 9 on "Chemical Overview" and 6 on "Clinical Application of Cyclotron Produced Products". These papers are entirely concerned with production, processing and application of radioisotopes. The papers are all very brief, and in each case give an outline of the facilities or procedures in a particular department or institution. One paper, "Radio- nuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals at Mount Sinai Medical Centre", by Ronald D. Finn, has a most arresting opening sentence: "The preparation of a radiopharmaceutical has certain characteristics in common with a fine aged wine" but then goes on to discuss the preparation of C15O2, rather than the development of an exciting new industry. The paper by Phelps and Hoffman, "Role of Cyclotrons and Positrons in the future of Nuclear Medicine", gives an outline of the principles and applications of positron transaxial tomography.

To use a word much favoured by the authors of this symposium, this volume gives a brief "overview" of on-the-spot production and use of radioisotopes. It may be of some value to those already conversant with this field of activity, but will not be much help to a reader approaching the subject for the first time.

D. Greene

Lymphoreticular Disease: An Introduction for the Pathologist and Oncologist. I. Carr, B. W. Hancock, L. Henry, A. Milford West (1977). London: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 214 pp. £9.25 net.

In the rapidly advancing (and often confusing) field of lymphoreticular disease, a concise, up-to-date, well written and well illustrated synopsis is to be welcomed. The authors state that their book "is intended for the histopathologist, the physician and the oncologist in training—as an introduction". The first chapter describes the cytology and histology of the lymph nodes, spleen and thymus, and deals with functional aspects. There follows a summary of immunodeficiency syndromes. Subsequent chapters deal successively with secondary lymphadenopathy (reactive and inflammatory conditions), Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, extra-nodally lymphomas and lymphoid hyperplasia, histiocytic proliferations and neoplasms, myelomatosis and other monoclonal gammapathies (including heavy-chain disease), the histopathology of the spleen, and of the thymus. There is a final chapter summarizing modern investigative and therapeutic procedures. The illustrations (about 135) comprise black and white photomicrographs, electronmicrographs, and some clinical photographs and radiographs. They are of satisfactory quality. Most sections of the book are up-to-date and the bibliography includes references to recent articles. A small, but noteworthy exception, is the paragraph on "Thymoma & Cushing's syndrome": here there is no reference later than 1970, and no mention of modern work identifying these tumours as anterior mediastinal (thymic) carcinoids, and establishing their relationship to multiple endocrine neoplasia. However, this is a minor criticism. On the whole the authors have succeeded in producing a useful work which can be recommended to histopathologists, general physicians and oncologists.

F. C. Gowing

Monograph on Cancer Research No. 20. Cancer Metastasis: Approaches to the Mechanism, Prevention and Treatment. Japanese Cancer Association (1977). London: University Park Press. 247 pp. £31.95 net.

This book is the result of a workshop on metastasis, and examines the relationship between tumour cells and metastasis, the nature of host response and metastasis,
control of metastasis in experimental systems, and a final section on the treatment of metastatic disease in vivo.

In the first part of the symposium one of the more interesting presentations concerns the relationship between in vitro analogues of malignancy at a cellular level and the process of metastasis. This reconstruction is made not by a pathologist but by a cell biologist, and as well as suggesting some interesting approaches it highlights quite starkly our ignorance of the mechanism of metastasis in vivo.

In the section on host responses a number of topics are presented, including the release of neoplastic cells by mammary tumours and the pathology of immunologic regression of tumour metastasis in lymph nodes. In the final presentation in this section Pafeedler suggests that the main factor in metastasis may be the characteristics of the malignant cell per se and that host defences may be a secondary phenomenon. The evidence for this conclusion is still in doubt in a number of tumour systems, and certainly in man, but provides the basis for a number of interesting and new approaches.

The section on control of metastasis is perhaps the weakest section of these proceedings. There are two presentations on the effect of sulphated polysacharides/dextran sulphate in relation to metastasis prevention, and one on immune mechanisms in relation to the prevention of metastasis. The final chapter in this section raises an old clinical controversy concerning the influence of surgical trauma on the subsequent development of metastasis. No new conclusions are reached.

In the final section, the effect of chemotherapy on metastases using drugs by various routes of administration or in different physical form (emulsion) was presented. An experimental system is also presented in which the enhancement or inhibition of metastasis in lungs by chemotherapy and radiotherapy was examined. In the final chapter a new technique, "Thermo differential chemosurgery", was described and some interesting results on the prevention of pulmonary metastasis were presented. This book represents an interesting collection of papers relating to experimental approaches to the investigation of the biologic mechanism of metastasis, and will be useful reading for clinical and scientific cancer research workers of many kinds.

H. Bush

The Truly Cured Child. Ed. Jan van Eys (1977). London: University Park Press. 177 pp. £5.50 net.

This is the report of the very frank discussions which took place in a workshop held by the Department of Paediatrics of the M. D. Anderson Hospital, Houston, Texas.

The definition of the Truly Cured Child is one, not only free of disease, but also on a par with their peers and at ease with their experience of having had cancer, a concept which is becoming more and more important as more and more children are alive and free of disease.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together all those concerned in any way with the child and his cancer, and included laboratory workers, researchers, nurses, social workers, chaplains, students, physicians of all kinds, parents and patients.

The aim of the workshop was to increase communication between all those concerned with the care of the child, and everyone was encouraged to discuss their own part and what conflicts there might be; e.g. between the patient and the demands imposed by the research carried out in the institution. By this means, as is pointed out, it was hoped that this would lead to the creation of a therapeutic community in which all not only play their own part, but also understand the part others have to play.

This book should be read by all those concerned with children with cancer, although in Britain some of the participants, such as educationalists and chaplains, may not be represented on the staff of our institutions; those of us who are, need to remember to communicate and co-operate with them if we are really to achieve the truly cured child.

D. Pearson

Growth Kinetics and Biochemical Regulation of Normal and Malignant Cells (Proceedings of the 29th Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research at M. D. Anderson Hospital, Texas) (1977). Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Co. 900 pp. $45.95 net.

Although this is an extremely useful book, because of its nature, and indeed its very size, it is not one to get elated over. It is a collection of 58 papers presented at a symposium designed to lay the foundations of cellular