with chapters on the history of chemotherapy, toxicity, statistical methods and drug resistance, which are of primary value as a guide to relevant literature. Following this is a series of 18 chapters by 14 authors most of whom have made important contributions to their particular fields of chemotherapy and present well documented reviews of the diseases they discuss. Particularly effective and complete reviews of helminthiasis by O. D. Standen and malaria by D. G. Davey and J. Hill are included; rather inadequate treatment is given to spirochetal infections and there are significant omissions and errors in discussion of the mechanisms of action in an otherwise comprehensive coverage of trypanosomal infections. It is difficult to judge the adequacy of discussions of the more obscure of the remaining twenty-five parasitic diseases that are considered to be of economic or clinical importance.

A high recommendation for this book can be given if one is seeking a guide for the evaluation of the action of a new compound against a parasitic infection in vitro or in vivo. The composite bibliography of approximately 6,000 references is perhaps sufficient to recommend inclusion of this volume on any reference shelf. Almost without exception, cogent discussions of the technical problems associated with drug screening operations are well presented and the pitfalls of extrapolating from experimental infections in animals to clinical medicine discussed. The book goes a bit astray, however, in attempting to compile a pharmacopoeia of agents possessing chemotherapeutic activity with abbreviated clinical comments on dosage and toxicity. This results in unnecessary duplication of descriptions of drugs by different authors with occasional differences of interpretation of their physiological and biochemical properties which would be much more useful if presented together. Perhaps the most helpful addition to the general format of the chapters would have been a primary evaluation of the status of chemotherapy in each disease and an outline of the unsolved problems associated with experimental approaches to new chemotherapeutic agents. In general the book lacks a serious discussion of biological or biochemical findings which might profitably be exploited in the development of new drugs. It is hoped that the important second volume of this series, which will be primarily concerned with bacterial, viral and neoplastic diseases, will incorporate these features.

R. E. HANDSCHUMACHER

PLEURAL EFFUSION. Some Infrequently Emphasized Causes. By Stephen Sulavik, and Sol Katz. Springfield, Ill., Charles C. Thomas, 1963. x, 90 pp. $5.00.

This clear, succinct and matter-of-fact discourse deals with a commonplace subject which is nearly always slighted, both didactically and in practice. Since the book is short, it can easily be read in one sitting but the novice will want to keep it readily at hand until, by his personal experience, he has incorporated its advice into his own practical knowledge.

Reading this book recalled to mind one of those apocryphal stories that form the woof of medical school lore. A physician asked a student

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what he would say about a patient who had a purulent pleural effusion, and received the smug and tautological reply that the patient had an empyema. Perhaps our present-day student-physician would be more sophisticated, but he still tends to be casual in his attitude toward this highly significant manifestation of disease. A monograph on the subject is, indeed, needed.

A somewhat unusual organization in which chapters describing the rarer causes of pleural effusion—pancreatitis, systemic lupus erythematosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and cirrhosis of the liver—come first has the pedagogic value of arousing interest in the dramatic possibilities of pleural effusion, and reminding us that it occurs in a wide gamut of diseases. These chapters are followed by others on eosinophilic and cholesterol pleural effusions; findings which are not infrequent, yet all too often misinterpreted.

The final chapter on general considerations summarizes the differential diagnosis in terms of common disorders, and provides a rational and positive approach to the diagnostic use of pleural effusion. In addition to the usual study of cell type, specific gravity and cultural and cytological characteristics, the monograph emphasizes the value of amylase and lipase determinations in questions of pancreatitis, and, when indicated, "LE cell" studies and glucose levels—the last because they are often much lower than blood glucose levels in rheumatoid arthritis. Finally a cogent argument is made for needle biopsy of the pleura, and its technique is discussed. Although the tone of the text is factual and practical, an excellent reference list at the end provides the student with a wide field for further study.

FRANK D. GRAY, JR.

SURGERY IN WORLD WAR II. THORACIC SURGERY, Vol. 1. Edited by Col. John Boyd Coates, Jr., Frank B. Berry, and Elizabeth M. McFetridge. Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1963. xxiv, 394 pp.

As one of a series of books on surgery in World War II, Thoracic Surgery, Volume 1 is a documentary of the development and function of thoracic surgery as a specialty during that most trying period of time. As editor of this particular volume, Dr. Frank B. Berry has done a commendable job in obtaining the services of such outstanding thoracic surgeons as Brian Blades, Lyman Brewer, Thomas Burbford, B. Noland Carter and Dwight Harken, each of whom has drawn on his own wartime experiences, as authors of the various chapters of the book. Dr. Berry's own chapters on "Historical Notes" (Chapter I) and "General Consideration of Thoracic Wounds" (Chapter II) are particularly valuable.

Because this volume is the work of many rather than the work of one, it suffers from a lack of continuity and organization that might have been avoided by a stronger editorial hand. The chapter on anesthesia is particularly weak. The disappointment in its inadequacies is compounded by the fact that the one illustrative case cited in this chapter is poorly documented, and its conclusions are laden with doubt.