Undoubtedly one of the major problems that continues to bedevil the recognition and classification of lymphomas is the ability of pathologists to reliably and reproducibly identify the component cells. This, in turn, relates to the fixation and processing artefacts of the relatively crude methods used in diagnostic histopathology. The wider use of cytology, plastic-embedded sections and immunoenzyme labelling methods could do much to overcome these problems. My major criticism of this book is that it is based almost entirely on paraffin-processed material and the author is unable to illustrate the fine cytological detail necessary for the recognition and separation of the different tumours of the lymphoreticular system. Many of the illustrations show little more than a series of black blobs of varying diameters and occasionally of differing shapes, and are so unhelpful that they might well have been omitted. This book is intended for "clinical pathologists, advanced students, as well as for oncologists, histologists and researchers concerned with the study of malignant and non-malignant lymph cells". I very much regret that I cannot recommend it to any of these groups.

D. H. Wright

The Year in Hematology 1978. Eds. R. Silber, J. Lobue, A. S. Gordon (1979). New York: Plenum Medical Book Company. 517 pp. £18.58.

A vast amount of information concerning clinical and experimental haematology has accumulated in the last few years. This book is part of a series which aims to review recent developments in a variety of fields. The subjects discussed in the present volume range from experimental topics of general biological interest to others of obvious interest to clinical haematologists.

Myelo- and lymphoproliferative disorders are analysed extensively from several angles, with 6 chapters devoted to them. Four chapters deal with experimental or laboratory studies. The first reviews the effect of anticancer drugs on the haemopoietic progenitor cells which can be studied by in vivo or in vitro colony assays, and discusses the possibility that analysing the cytotoxicity of chemotherapeutic agents on the basis of their effect on the different types of the progenitor cells studied, might provide a more rational approach to therapy. Another chapter describes the in vitro growth patterns of marrow in acute and chronic granulocytic leukaemia during various stages of the disease, and analyses their relevance for the understanding of the pathophysiology of leukaemia. Data on cell markers, including viral and foetal antigens are analysed, and their possible relevance if immunotherapeutic attack is considered, are discussed critically. A comprehensive review of the association of chromosome abnormalities with acute leukaemias, chronic myeloid leukaemias and other myeloproliferative disease, as well as pre-leukaemias and lymphoproliferative diseases, gives a detailed account of the information available.

Of considerable interest to clinicians will be the chapters on treatment of Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, with a careful analysis of the parameters that may decide the type of treatment.

Other chapters describe subjects which will be of interest to specialists, like those dealing with alterations on red-cell-membrane lipids, factors which regulate the egress of cells from the marrow, mechanisms of action of heparin, observations on marrow megakaryocytes, mechanisms of chloramphenicol and thiamphenicol toxicity, and haemoglobin switch.

Finally, 2 conceptual chapters deal with the putative role of proposed regulators of the lymphohaemopoietic system: chalones, and thymosin and other thymic factors.

The 14 chapters have been written by authors who work actively in their respective subjects and who succeed in providing comprehensive and authoritative reviews.

N. Testa

The Handbook of Cancer Immunology. Volume 5—Immunotherapy. Ed. Harold Waters. New York: Garland STPM Press. 478 pp.

This is the fifth in a series of books designed to review the current status of tumour immunology, and at first sight is rather a "mixed bag" of some 17 chapters covering experimental and clinical immunotherapy. The main emphasis, however, is the immunological background of the disease and the immunological effects of immunotherapeutic agents and possible therapeutic techniques, indicating their future potential, rather than