that there may be a useful quantitative relationship between short-term mutagenicity data and long-term carcinogenicity data. Not surprisingly, they conclude that such a relationship is unlikely (at least that is how I interpret their guarded conclusions).

There is an excellent chapter by Carrano and Moore on methods for quantifying sister-chromatid exchange in humans. The authors supply some valuable data which demonstrates the variability of SCE levels in human peripheral lymphocytes and emphasise the need for rigorous statistical design of protocols.

Despite its uneven coverage, this volume will be a very useful source of reference to anyone interested in genetic toxicology, and does succeed in demonstrating the versatility of short-term tests in allowing investigations which would have been impossible only one or two decades ago.

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Prostaglandins and Cancer. (Prostaglandins and Related Lipids—Vol. 2). (Eds. T. J. POWLES, R. S. BOCKMAN, K. V. HONN and P. RAMWELL) New York, Alan R. Liss Inc., 841 pp, 1982.

This book records the proceedings of the “First International Conference on Prostaglandins and Cancer” held in 1981 with the stated objective of bringing together those scientists involved in prostaglandin research, with those involved in cancer research. These proceedings indicate that this objective was fulfilled, although the bias is towards the biology rather than the chemistry of the prostaglandins.

It is divided into eight major sections. The first comprises four review articles which provide an excellent introduction to the metabolism and pharmacology of the prostaglandins. The remaining sections are each divided into review papers and brief reports. Many of the latter are so insubstantial as to only add to the bulk of an overlong book without adding significantly to its value.

The second and third sections cover respectively, the initiation and promotion phases of carcinogenesis. The former provides in-depth reviews on the role of prostaglandin oxygenases in the synthesis of carcinogenic metabolites, whilst the latter is concerned with the actual role that the prostaglandins may play in tumour promotion.

The next two sections concern the role of prostaglandins in the control of cell replication/proliferation and cell differentiation/interaction. These are followed by a section entitled Prostaglandins, bone metastases and hypercalcaemia which closely relates to the following section covering host-tumour interactions. These two sections attempt to integrate the relationship and relative roles of prostaglandins synthesised by the tumour cell and the host during tumour progression.

The concluding section, covering the effect of pharmacological manipulation of prostaglandin synthesis on tumour growth and metastasis in vivo, describes potential applications to the treatment of cancer. The final paper in this section describes the sole human study and concludes on the depressing note that the infusion of prostaglandins known to inhibit tumour cell proliferation in experimental systems has no effect on the progression of human cancer. This disappointing result is in contrast to the work described elsewhere in this book, which covers an exciting interaction between two areas of scientific research.

Specialists in the field of prostaglandin research will probably gain little from this book, but those oncologists prepared to delve into its 841 pages will find many papers of interest.

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Pharmacologic Principles of Cancer Treatment. (Ed. B. CHABNER) USA, W. B. Saunders Company, 457 pp, 1982, £45.00

Over the last five years there have been a number of books dealing with the pharmacology of anticancer drugs. Although these have been of interest there has really been no authoritative volume that has dealt with this subject in depth. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to review such a text and I feel that this will fill a real need for all those concerned in oncology. The book is divided into two sections, the first contains excellent reviews on the principles of cell kinetics, pharmacokinetics, clinical pharmacology and late complications of drug therapy. The second section is devoted to individual chapters on all the commonly used cytotoxic agents. Each is comprehensively covered and an authoritative bibliography appended. Throughout, the text presents a unanimity that holds the reader’s attention, diagrams and tables are clearly labelled, and not overdone. This book should appeal to all those involved in the care of the patient with
cancer, and whilst it should be present in every library, the price of £45 should not deter an individual purchase.

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Pancreatic Tumours in Children—Cancer Treatments and Research, Vol. 2. (Eds G. B. HUMPHREY, G. B. GRINDEY, L. P. DEHNER, R. T. ACTON and T. J. PYSHER) The Netherlands, Martinus Nijhoff, 222 pp, 1982, $58.50

This is an extraordinary book. It is the second in a series to be published annually whose stated intention is to focus on aspects of paediatric oncology and related fields which are not well covered elsewhere. The first section of each volume is to deal with concepts in research from the basic sciences and the second section will be devoted to specific rare tumours and will serve as an informal tumour registry.

Section one of this volume consists of reviews of four topics. The first is on the role of natural killer (NK) cells in resistance to tumours; the others cover the topics of clonal evolution, cancer cell differentiation and the clinical significance of chromosome abnormalities in leukaemia. All are authoritative and certainly of much topical interest, but to suggest that none are well covered elsewhere is a trifle ingenuous.

Section two brings together the available information on pancreatic malignancies in childhood, which are indeed excessively rare. There is a review of the genetic aspects of endocrine neoplasia and this is followed by a most helpful review of tumours of the exocrine pancreas in childhood. The section concludes with a useful overview of the subject, but much of the material between takes the form of individual case reports, often so lacking in detail as to make them irrelevant.

Any children's cancer unit will want to have access to these volumes for their coverage of the rarities among paediatric malignancies. However, I do not think it makes sense to combine the two sections together in this form. I suspect that those who might be most interested to read the basic science reviews in section one are most unlikely ever to become aware of their existence while they are hidden in a book with the title Pancreatic Tumours in Children.

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Prostate Cancer. (Eds G. H. JACOBI and R. HOHENFELLNER) USA, Williams and Wilkins, 490 pp, 1982

This is an addition to other texts dealing with this subject. It brings together the experience of acknowledged experts in its various chapters and each of these brings the reader more or less fully up to date with the state of the art both in respect of clinical and laboratory expertise and the extent of research in a number of fields. Each chapter provides a useful overview on the particular topic and this, with a good bibliography in each case, is the main attribute of the book.

As always there are strengths and weaknesses. There is particularly good coverage of the epidemiological aspects of this cancer. Perhaps, however, due to rapid advances in techniques which have somewhat outstripped the preparation of this volume, there is scant mention of ultrasonography of the gland in clinical assessment and virtually none of the rectal ultrasound techniques. A unique feature of the book is the editorial comments which follow most of the chapters a number of which are contradictory to the line taken by the expert originally asked by the Editors to contribute the chapter. This is somewhat confusing for the reader who is left thereafter to make up his own mind. In a sense however this sums up the continuing confusion in the thinking on so many aspects of this disease.

The book will appeal to specialists in urology and laboratory and research workers involved with their clinical colleagues in the study of this disease. The book is well produced and edited.

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Cancer Incidence in 5 Continents, Vol. IV (Eds J. WATERHOUSE, C. MUIR, K. SHANMUGARATNAM and J. POWELL) Lyon, IARC Sci. Publications—No. 42, 812 pp, 1982, $50.00

Cancer is a major health problem all over the world, not only in developed but also in developing countries. Many types of cancer show marked differences in frequency between countries and between ethnic groups, and such differences can provide epidemiologists with clues about the causes of cancer.

This volume contains detailed statistics of cancer incidence from eighty-one cancer registers covering various countries or territories in all parts of the world. For each registry the numbers of cancers per