management of Cushing’s disease while waiting for pituitary irradiation to become effective and, in particular, the use of bromocriptine to manage patients with functional hyperprolactinaemia or prolactin-secreting microadenomas, is barely mentioned. The book is primarily for the neurosurgeon, but it does contain a great deal of material that will interest the endocrinologist. The contributions are well written and the book is well produced with excellent illustrations. It can be recommended.

S. M. SHALET

Progress in Radiopharmacology, Vol. 1.
(Ed.) P. H. Cox (1979) Amsterdam: Elsevier North-Holland. 250 pp. 85 Dfl.

This book contains the papers presented at the European Symposium on Radiopharmacology, held at Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, in June 1979.

Twenty papers were presented, 19 from different centres in Europe and 1 from the U.S.A. The subjects discussed are: 1—Ionic tumour-seeking radiopharmaceuticals, 2—Technetium-labelled skeletal reagents, 3—Technetium IDA derivatives for liver-function studies.

Each session reviewed the radiochemical and biological behaviour of the compounds in relation to the physiopathology of the organ or tissue under study, followed by discussion of the clinical value of these different compounds.

The book is well presented, directly from typescript, and a good standard is kept throughout the chapters.

In summary, this is a useful book which gives a good review of these aspects of radiopharmacology, and we look forward to a further publication containing new topics of radiopharmacology.

H. T. TESTA

BCG Vaccine: Tuberculosis—Cancer.
S. R. Rosenthal (1980) Littleton, Massachusetts: P.S.G. 410 pp. $25.00.

This is primarily a book on bacteriology, rather than immunology or oncology, but nevertheless will also be of value to anyone interested in the vaccine which has attracted the attention of immunologists and oncologists for so long. It describes, with extensive references, the nature of the complex organism which has been known by the deceptively simple title of "BCG". Its origin, nearly 60 years ago, its culture and biochemical characteristics and how it is handled, freeze-dried or preserved as viable vaccine for clinical use, are described in detail. The strain of BCG, and how it is cultured and freeze-dried, can dramatically influence its virulence and viability, and the immunizing potency of the final vaccine, and this is stressed throughout.

An account is also given of the techniques for the several routes of administration of BCG used in both tuberculosis immunization and tumour immunotherapy, and adverse reactions sometimes associated with them. The one chapter on BCG in cancer and leukaemia outlines briefly the clinical experience with BCG and emphasizes that variable effects of BCG in different trials may well be associated with the use of different strains and preparations. More recently, of course, BCG subcellular components, such as cord factor and muramyl dipeptide and synthetic analogues, have superseded BCG to a large extent for immunological purposes, though these are outside the scope of this book and only briefly mentioned. In this context, it is a pity that this volume was not available a few years ago when BCG itself was attracting such great attention for immunotherapy trials, but even now it will be of value to anyone interested in the biological effects of this fascinating organism.

M. V. PIMM

Contemporary Hematology/Oncology.
(Eds) J. LOBUE, A. S. GORDON, R. SILBER & F. M. MUGGIA (1980) New York: Plenum. 330 pp. £29.50.

This book is the successor to "The Year in Hematology" produced by the same team. The new title, it seems, was suggested by a reader who pointed out to the editors that the original implied that only advances made during the year under review were included. In fact, the papers in each of the 3 volumes so far published explore theoretical concepts and experimental work which have gradually evolved over a longer time scale. The editors then invite distinguished contributors to review a subject of current practical importance in the investigation and treatment of blood diseases.
The present volume maintains the high standards set by its predecessors. Dr Muggia has joined the editorial team to provide additional expertise in the field of oncology, and to broaden the appeal of the series, though the spectrum of topics included is still likely to be of interest predominantly to the clinical haematologist rather than the oncologist. Amongst chapters which should interest the latter, however, are those by Dr Fialkow on the clonal and stem-cell origins of blood-cell neoplasms, Drs Marks and McCaffrey on terminal transferase and Drs Cohen and Cathecart on amyloidosis. The chapter on the molecular genetics of thalassaemia by Drs Orkin and Nathan, and that on the effect of heparin on complement activation, by Drs Logue and Kelton, will be of special interest to the haematologist. Drs Schiffer and Aisner’s essay on a rational approach to granulocyte transfusions is timely and thoughtful. All these subjects and several others are discussed by experts in, for the most part, a commendably lucid style.

Together with the 1977 and 1978 Year Books, the editors have succeeded in covering many of the “growing points” in haematology, and the reader who has digested all these will indeed be well informed, though, to be sure, at no inconsiderable cost to his pocket! The editors conclude their preface to the latest volume wistfully, by pointing out that some ingenuity is needed to find topics not already covered in this and comparable series. So far they have achieved their aim admirably.

C. G. GEARY

The Anticancer Drugs. W. B. Pratt & R. W. Ruddon (1979). Oxford University Press. 323 pp. £8-50.

This book is a comprehensive account of currently used cytotoxic agents for cancer therapy. In general, the text is well presented and produced in a very readable format. The initial problem of cancer and the reasons for drug response are discussed in some detail, and there follows a description of individual cytotoxic drugs. Each chapter is followed by an adequate list of references for the reader wishing to study a particular drug in more detail.

I think it would be unlikely to appeal to current workers in cancer therapy, as it does not contain sufficient detail. However, its form is attractive enough to appeal to workers in other disciplines, and short enough to be read even by medical students. In support of this is the attractive price of £8-50 which, considering the cost of medical texts, is a considerable achievement for the publishers.

P. WILKINSON