The remaining papers of the first session covered radiation effects on specific systems and tissues including neuropsychologic function, hearing and ocular complications, skeletal growth and development, thyroid and gonadal function and the development of precocious and premature puberty in children receiving cranial irradiation. The paper by Dr Jean Saunders on The Effects of Bone Marrow Transplantation on Reproductive Function drew on the large experience of the Seattle bone marrow transplant group, indicating that preparative regimens involving drugs only have less damaging effects than total body irradiation.

A further session of the meeting covered intragenomic DNA repair, the genetic basis of cancer, methods of detection of somatic mutational and segregation events, and genetic counselling in cancer—an area which will become increasingly important in the future.

The final topics discussed were the psychosocial, educational and job achieving problems of the long term survivors. These papers were perhaps the least helpful as they tended to be anecdotal, except for the paper by Barbara Hoffman on The Legal Remedies to Job and Insurance Discrimination in the USA. This raises worrying issues in the light of the moves towards more limited health cover in the UK.

This book will be welcomed by all paediatric oncologists and should also prove educational and instructive to any physician concerned with the care of long term survivors of cancer in childhood.

The second in the series of these conferences was recently held in Buffalo and the intention is to arrange the event on an alternate year basis covering a different major topic on each occasion—I look forward to further publications.

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Diabetes and atherosclerosis. Edited by Robert W. Stout. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1992. 295pp. £79.50.

Diabetes is known to be associated with a marked excess of atherosclerotic vascular diseases, but the underlying mechanisms still remain incompletely understood. Professor Robert W. Stout and his colleagues at the Belfast Medical School have written this book to give clinicians an update of information on the relationship between diabetes and atherosclerosis.

The opening chapter gives a brief summary of the main features of the cell biology of the arterial wall and its alterations in the development of atherosclerotic lesions. The next chapter on the gastrointestinal regulatory peptide control of insulin secretion and its relevance to diabetes is interesting but has little relevance to the main topic of the book. The third chapter gives an excellent and concise summary of the current

Late effects of treatment for childhood cancer. Edited by Daniel M. Green and Giulio J. D’Angio. John Wiley & Sons Inc, New York, 1992. 186pp. $79.00.

This book records the invited papers given at the 1st International Conference on the Long Term Complications of Treatment of Children and Adolescents for Cancer held in Buffalo, New York, in June 1990.

There were three overview papers—one on The Historical Perspective of Late Effects of Treatment by Dr G. J. D’Angio highlighted the problems of extrapolating from data on radiation damage in adults, and the enhancing effects of chemotherapy when used in conjunction with radiation. Dr Charles Sklar presented a clear exposition on The Physiology of Growth Hormone Production and Release, highlighting the complicated interactions of many factors which can influence GH secretion. The third overview was by Dr Steven Shalet and Dr Hamish Wallace on Reproductive Physiology, particularly emphasising the negative feedback mechanisms apparent in prepubertal children, regulated by both sex steroids and a CNS inhibitory system. Disturbance of the latter probably accounts for precocious puberty in cranially irradiated children.
information on insulin resistance which has become a topic of great interest in research on the relationship between diabetes and atherosclerosis and in atherosclerosis research in general.

The following chapters deal mainly with different clinical and epidemiological aspects of the association between diabetes and atherosclerosis, but these chapters also provide appropriate information about current knowledge on biochemical and physiological links which may mediate and enhance atherosclerosis in diabetes. The chapter entitled ‘Diabetes mellitus and atherosclerosis’ is the key chapter of the book and gives a good summary of mortality data, autopsy studies, as well as clinical and epidemiological studies providing quantitative information about the magnitude of the excess of different clinical manifestations of atherosclerotic vascular disease in diabetic patients as compared to non-diabetic subjects. The next chapters discuss the effect of diabetes on general cardiovascular risk factors, such as serum lipids and blood pressure, and whether these and other risk factors have the same impact in diabetic patients as in non-diabetic subjects. The book also includes chapters covering some special aspects of the diabetic state itself which may be related to the enhanced development of atherosclerosis or its thrombotic complications. These aspects include hyperinsulinaemia and insulin resistance, glycation of proteins as a consequence of hyperglycaemia, haemostatic disorders, and proteinuria as an indicator of impaired vascular integrity. The well-written chapter on non-ischaemic heart disease in diabetes is relevant in this context, because there is good evidence for the existence of a specific heart muscle disorder associated with diabetes, independent of coronary heart disease and hypertension, with a worse prognosis of acute myocardial infarction and more frequent occurrence of cardiac failure in diabetic patients than in non-diabetic subjects.

The last chapter of the book on experimental atherosclerosis and diabetes is interesting and important, but could have been better placed among the basic chapters in the beginning of the book.

I missed a separate chapter on prevention and treatment of atherosclerotic vascular disease in patients with diabetes. Although there still remain many unanswered questions in this respect, the available evidence so far suggests that the life-style measures for primary and secondary prevention of atherosclerotic vascular disease appropriate for non-diabetic subjects are also appropriate in diabetic patients and should be pursued vigorously. Treatment of dyslipidaemia and hypertension, with particular emphasis on the selection of drugs to be used, is discussed in connection with chapters dealing with these risk factors, but a concise chapter summarising various aspects of preventive practice would have been valuable.

This book is of interest to clinicians of different specialties participating in the management of diabetic patients, but it is also a good reference source for researchers in this field.

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