ing clinical seizures in epileptic patients [2]. In a volume supposedly designed to help physicians elucidate the recognition of pseudoseizures, such misleading oversimplification serves the opposite cause. The patient was better off before his doctor read this book.

To be fair, certain chapters are well written and address their topic beautifully (Desai, Lesser, Ehrenberg). The concept of such a compendium is an admirable and desirable one. Unfortunately, this volume does not fill the need.

1. Mattson RH: Value of Intensive Monitoring. In Advances in Epileptology. Xth Epilepsy International Symposium. Edited by JA Wada, JK Penry. New York, Raven Press, 1980, pp 43-52
2. Klass DW: Electroencephalographic manifestations of complex partial seizures. In Adv Neurol 11: Complex Partial Seizures and Their Treatment. Edited by JK Penry, DD Daly. New York, Raven Press, 1975, pp 113-140

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Airborne and Allergic Pollen of North America. By Walter H. Lewis, Prathibha Vinay, and Vincent E. Zenger. Baltimore, MD, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984. 254 pp. $60.00.

If talking to plants makes them grow, then showing them this book will surely make them blush because Pollen is an uninhibited and amply illustrated discussion of plant genitalia and plant airborne reproductive cells. As an innocent bystander, man frequently becomes pathologically involved in the “birds and the bees (and the wind)” of sexual reproduction in the plant world. It is this pathological involvement, called pollenosis, that this book discusses. The importance of pollenosis will not be underestimated by sufferers of seasonal rhinitis or by practitioners to whose income treatment of this malady significantly contributes.

Pollen is written for biologists and allergists. The book is organized into three main chapters covering trees, grasses, and shrubs in North America. Within each chapter, families of plants are arranged alphabetically and discussed with respect to species classification, pollen aerobiology, pollen morphology, regional distribution, and allergenicity. Those families considered most allergenic are generally flagged with an asterisk. Ironically, the family Asteracea which deserves at least two asterisks for the allergenic contributions of ragweed is devoid of any asterisk. Other than this, the book is technically well constructed and relatively free of typographical errors or omissions. Each section in the book contains good quality black-and-white photos of characteristic leaf, stem, inflorescence, or cone. A hallmark of the book is the thorough collection of figures of pollen morphology as documented in color and black-and-white micrographs and scanning electron micrographs. Family-specific geographic distribution figures and aeropollen frequency tables (compiled by month for each region) contribute to the utility of the book. Also helpful are the 16 pages of color prints which precede the text, a glossary, and 800 easily legible family and species distribution maps within North America (unfortunately excluding Alaska and northern Canada). Methods for collection and preparation of pollen for microscopic examination and skin testing enable a rather simply equipped laboratory to identify offending agents rather
specifically. The book is supported by over 200 references and half again as many personal communications.

The high-quality scanning electron micrographs of pollen grains are especially appealing. Willow, mimosa, and dandelion pollen have an architecture as intricate and beautiful as the plant superstructure which supports them. The spiny spherical pollen grains of ambrosia (ragweed) make them visibly as irritating as they are when they contact the mucous membranes.

*Pollen* is not exciting to read unless you are discovering the specific origin of your seasonal sneezing, tearing, conjunctivitis, asthma, and rhinorhea, and that by moving to southern California, you might be able to avoid the problem. The book is expensive, but well done and should serve as a lasting reference to plant biologists, allergists, and even ophthalmologists.

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**Normal and Neoplastic Hematopoiesis.** Edited by David W. Golde and Paul A. Marks. New York, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1983. 594 pp. $96.00.

This volume, which represents the proceedings of a UCLA symposium held in the spring of 1983, reflects the dramatic changes which have recently occurred in the study of the formation of blood cells—a progression from the simple animal paradigms of the 1960s to the elegant molecular biology displayed in this collection of reports. The symposium is loosely organized as an overview of the better understood alterations in gene expression which occur during cellular differentiation and an examination of the signals which regulate these processes.

The first offering is an eminently readable, historical narrative by J. Michael Bishop which describes the recent major developments in molecular genetics, with particular emphasis on the role of cellular oncogenes in both differentiation and carcinogenesis. Following this are three reports; one by Carlo Croce and co-workers on chromosomal translocations and oncogene activation, another by Paul A. Marks and co-workers on the role of alterations in chromatin structure on gene expression in erythroleukemia, and a third from Sherman Weissman's group on the conversion of HLA genes by their association with other, specific DNA sequences. From each of these reports comes an appreciation for the extent to which recent technological advances have impacted on hematology.

Interspersed among these reports are those from the laboratories of Sachs, Golde, and Metcalf on the control of gene expression in differentiation by soluble regulatory factors, and a review by Gallo's group on the use of one such factor which led to the isolation of the putative human T-cell leukemia virus. Presented as separate entities, these papers are made more cohesive through parenthetical speculations by many of the authors as to the relevance of their observations to the actual determinants of hematopoiesis or leukemogenesis. The latter portions of this book, however, are somewhat less cohesive, if not irrelevant. Many of the elements have significant merit, including the report of Vandenbark and Niedel on the mechanism of induction of leukemic cell differentiation by phorbol diesters, that of Bertino and co-workers on the mechanisms of drug resistance in leukemic cells, and that of Mazur et al. on the regulation of megakaryocytogenesis. Unfortunately, the lack of commentary, which is often provided by transcribed discussions included in