and mice that survive very heavy exposure to lead probably arise in these very tubules, this omission is surprising.

The third part of the book concerns in vitro methodology, which one feels is much more the author's home ground. Here, however, he is involved in a rapidly growing area of molecular biology, with the result that the methods he recommends and the costs he cites were almost bound to have been undertaken during the time it took to produce the book.

My greatest doubt, however, is whether it is sensible to lump metals together on the assumption that if they cause cancer they will do so by a common mechanism which is in some way distinctive. On the basis of presently available knowledge, it would be wiser to expect that metal carcinogenesis involves as wide a variety of mechanisms as non-metal carcinogenesis.

F. J. C. Roe

Metastasis—Clinical and Experimental Aspects. Eds K. Hellmann, P. Hilgard and S. Eccles (1980). London: Martinus Nijhoff. 456 pp. 125 guilders net.

This volume is a collection of about 90 verbal papers and posters presented at a meeting of the Metastasis Group of the EORTC held early in 1980. It is a further example of "The Book of the Meeting". Although just about every aspect of current metastasis research is covered (invasion, coagulation, prostaglandins, heterogeneity, therapy, etc., etc.), it is hard to find one's way about the book; the papers are not quite in random order, but neither are they logically grouped into various aspects of the subject. If this had been done, with subheadings in the contents list, the various aspects of the metastatic process, and current research in understanding mechanisms and therapy, would have been made clearer, certainly to any newcomer to the field. Although an early chapter by Hewitt emphasizes the inadequacies of animal tumours as relevant models for tumour disease, too many of the following papers deal with just such models, and the clinical papers are in the minority.

Much of the work described in this book has been, or will be, published elsewhere, and it really will be of little value to workers already in the field. To other basic or clinical scientists becoming interested in the metastatic process, I doubt that such a collection of papers is the best approach to the subject.  

M. V. Pimm

The Breast. Eds H. S. Gallagher, H. P. Lewis, R. K. Snyderman & J. A. Urban (1978) Missouri: C. V. Mosby Co. 564 pp. Price not given.

This book, with its 43 authors (all from the U.S.A.) and 45 chapters, covers all aspects of the breast and its diseases. The subject matter includes anatomy, physiology, pathology, diagnosis, treatment, operative technique, plastic surgery and psychology. Inevitably it invites comparison with Haagensen's "Diseases of the Breast", and inevitably it suffers in comparison, by lacking a consistent or integrated viewpoint. In their preface the Editors admit that this is so, saying: "no attempt has been made to avoid disagreement or to exclude viewpoints other than our own". Unfortunately it also appears to be true that no attempt has been made to insist that authors present their subject in a balanced manner. Thus, in Chapter 6 by Professor Gallagher on the classification of breast neoplasms, no mention is made of the WHO classification, though there is room to quote 4 papers on that great rarity, adenoid cystic carcinoma of the breast. Indeed, in this Chapter the only system of classification acknowledged is the author's own, and this parochialism is only slightly redressed in Chapter 14 by Robbins (a surgeon) who appears to favour the use of the WHO system.

The imbalance in the chapters on pathology is also seen in other sections. For example, on p. 88, 10 references are quoted in support of the observation that the breasts are accessible organs and that their examination is relatively easy; a trivial point, perhaps, but symptomatic of the rather pedantic approach to be found in some sections.

This book is an attempt to present a modern review of breast disease, which is a worthwhile project. Many of its chapters are successful, but some are not, suffering both from bias and pedestrianism. Should a second edition be contemplated, the Editors would do well to be firm with themselves and their contributors, and to insist on a more scholarly approach. Meanwhile, whilst major libraries will no doubt feel obliged to purchase
the book, I cannot recommend it for the individual or the departmental bookshelf.

M. Harris

Frontiers of Gastro Intestinal Research. Vol. 6 The Stomach. Ed. LEO VAN DER REIJ (1980). Basel: Karger. 186 pp. Sw. Fr. 92 net.

This book is one of a review series. It consists of 12 review articles of general nature concerning pathology, epidemiology and the clinical aspects of gastric disease.

The authors of the various chapters are drawn from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Europe, Japan and Australia.

As in all multi-author publications, there is variation of standard, but the best of these reviews represent a clear statement of our present knowledge, with a well researched bibliography.

The articles are devoted largely to clinical research and, as such, will be of greater interest to the practising clinician than to the laboratory worker.

P. Schofield

Hormones and Cancer (Progress in Cancer Research and Therapy Vol. 14). Eds S. Iacobelli, R. J. B. King, H. R. LINDMER & H. E. LIPPMAN (1980) New York: Raven Press. 590 pp. $66.64 net.

Raven Press has gathered together the papers presented at the Hormones and Cancer Meeting in Rome in 1979 and produced an interesting and enlightening book. Any reader working on the actions of hormones in normal and neoplastic tissue will find it a storehouse of new information. The book demonstrates the varied pathways which research into hormones and cancer has taken since 1971, when Jensen first suggested that the presence of cytosol oestrogen receptors in breast tumours might indicate which patients would respond to endocrine therapy. This simple hypothesis has now been somewhat modified with the realization that more information may be gained by also measuring nuclear oestrogen receptors and/or cytosol progesterone receptors. Up-to-date ideas on breast cancer are well presented, and the extension of similar types of investigation into prostatic cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma and endometrial cancer are well covered.

However, the real value of the book is in high-lighting other basic research into both normal growth and the neoplastic process, using animal models and tissue-culture techniques. Any one interested in this type of experimental work and its application to cancer patients will find the various chapters by specialist authors useful, and will appreciate the many references.

D. M. Barnes

Cancer Morbidity and Causes of Death among Danish Brewery Workers. O. M. JENSEN (1980). Lyon: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Sw. Fr. 45 net.

A study was carried out in Denmark specifically to test the hypothesis that the risk of colo-rectal cancer among brewery workers is higher than in the general population. This was to cross-check other studies, particularly collation studies of national and international data, which had suggested an association between beer consumption and cancer of the large bowel. The study was carried out on workers in Danish breweries, who were eligible for 6 bottles of beer per day, which had to be drunk on the premises. It was usually a light Pilsner type, giving an average consumption of 77.7 g of ethanol per day of work. It was estimated that the Danish brewery workers had a daily consumption of beer about 4 times that of the average Danish male in Copenhagen.

Using the Danish brewery workers’ Union records, it was possible to identify present and past members, as well as their employment periods and places of work. Any individual who had been employed for 6 months or longer in a brewery between 1939 and 1963 was eligible for the study, and initially 16,467 individuals were identified, but 2154 had to be excluded for various reasons (duplicate records, died before 1943, lost to follow-up before then, or date of birth unknown). Out of the 14,313 workers, 89.1% were employed in production and distribution of beer, 7.4% in mineral-water factories, whilst the remainder had worked in both breweries and mineral-water factories. (Those working in mineral-water factories were not eligible for free beer.)

The individuals were followed up through