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 overtaken 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 didactic 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