and researchers who contributed to this collection are predominantly from several areas of high AIDS prevalence: New York, San Francisco, and Miami; they are the shock troops fighting this epidemic, and it is their experiences with AIDS patients that are elegantly presented. While this edition may be a bit costly for the individual, it should be made available in all medical school and departmental libraries.

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THE DREAD DISEASE: CANCER AND MODERN AMERICAN CULTURE. By James T. Patterson. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1987. 380 pp. $14.95. Paper-bound.

In 1884, President Ulysses S. Grant was suffering from cancer of the mouth, which led to his eventual death in 1885. Grant’s illness was highly publicized, and America closely followed the frequent accounts in newspapers and magazines. This reaction was unusual in an era when revulsion and fear of cancer were universal attitudes and such open public discussion of the topic was nearly nonexistent. This “cancerphobia,” its growth, and its persistence are central themes of The Dread Disease: Cancer and Modern American Culture. The author, James T. Patterson, discusses President Grant’s illness and death and the American people’s reaction in his prologue and devotes the rest of the chapters to an examination of the subsequent cultural history of cancer in the United States. Thus the focus is not on the disease itself, but rather on the social and personal reactions to the disease. The author clearly states this in the preface: It is “not a detailed study of cancer research, of therapy, or of the experiences of patients.” He draws heavily on secondary and archival sources and integrates these data into a scholarly treatment of cancer and its reflection of social and personal issues during the modern industrial era.

Patterson moves from President Grant’s demise to the rise of organized efforts to prevent and treat cancer in the beginning of this century. He calls the participants in this organized effort the “anticancer alliance,” which originally included the American Society for the Control of Cancer, the progenitor of our modern-day American Cancer Society. This alliance expanded over the years to include institutions such as the National Cancer Institute and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Patterson attributes the initial rise of the alliance to the conquest and control of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and polio and an increased respect for medicine as a profession and science. Increasing life expectancies for Americans and the prevalent attitudes of optimism and confidence after World War II also sustained the alliance’s growth.

Patterson also describes the “cancer counterculture,” which has taken many different forms. Although less well organized than the anticancer alliance, it has nevertheless been influential upon American society. The counterculture included stereotypical “quacks,” snake oil hucksters, faith healers, and their patrons, but it also included legitimate groups. For examples, such groups include environmentalists who stress the roles of pollution and occupational exposure in the development of cancer, and those who advocate the roles of nutrition and dietary factors in cancer prevention
and etiology. Patterson carefully traces the development of these cancer countercultures and the anticancer alliance, as well as the conflicts which arose between and within the groups. These conflicts included debates over funding cancer prevention programs versus laboratory research, and whether such laboratory research should focus on basic biology or be targeted more toward cancer etiologies and therapies. A central thesis of the book is that conflicts such as these reflected the overall social and economic divisions of the times. For example, many lower-income and lesser-educated Americans followed counterculture elements such as faith healers and home cancer remedies because they distrusted the medical establishment. Patterson thoughtfully explores these and other similar issues in a well-illustrated and well-referenced fashion. His critical line of reasoning assembles the facts and figures into a logical and interesting examination of the topic.

Some readers may note a resemblance of this historical study to *Illness as Metaphor* by Susan Sontag (New York, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1977), which is a literary essay. Sontag focuses on the personal and interpersonal aspects of tuberculosis and cancer, drawing heavily upon poetry and literature as her sources. In contrast, Patterson concentrates on the sociology and psychology of cancer as reflected at the larger societal and institutional levels. Moreover, Sontag does not limit her discussion to cancer, the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, or the United States, as Patterson does. Patterson’s work is thus distinctly different from *Illness as Metaphor* in its focus and scope.

The only flaw in this book is the lack of graphical presentation of numerical data discussed within its text. This omission was not, however, prohibitive to either the value or enjoyment of the book, and I found *The Dread Disease: Cancer and Modern American Culture* to be highly informative and insightful. I recommend it to cancer scientists, physicians, and historians, and anyone interested in the social history of cancer in modern America.

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**FOR THE LOVE OF ENZYMES.** By Arthur Kornberg. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1989. 336 pp. $29.95.

In this autobiography, Arthur Kornberg discusses his life, research, and philosophy. His outstanding achievements as a biochemist give this book a place of importance in the history of one of the most exciting scientific adventures of our time. In compressed but comprehensive form, Kornberg describes the development of his interest in enzymes. He charts the path of his persistent and ingenious pursuit of the mechanism of DNA replication, openly revealing the blind alleys he has wandered into and the role of luck as well as judgment in his success. Although most of the scientific material is familiar to biochemists, they may be surprised and intrigued by the frankness with which he describes his tortuous way to the final result.

The paths he followed are mapped clearly enough that readers without knowledge of chemistry can follow his journey. The text is supplemented by lucid diagrams. But only a person who has actually carried out research can appreciate the frustration generated by some of the fallow periods he mentions only casually.