BOOK REVIEWS


For one who reviewed Ferrata's Le Emopatie in 1933 and the first edition of the Ferrata and Storti in 1946, it has been a pleasure and thrilling experience to read this modern, authoritative, and comprehensive two-volume work on all phases of hematology. These volumes contain five parts each which in turn are composed of from one to ten chapters, totaling 42 all together. The subject matter in the first three parts is distributed as follows: 1. principles of hematologic morphology and physio-pathology; 2. transfusion of blood, its derivatives and substitutes; 3. technics for hematologic research. The remaining seven parts are devoted to the various disorders of the blood and blood-forming organs.

The morphologic basis for the later chapters has been broadened to include cytochemistry and histochemistry, together with information obtained through phase and electron microscopy. In other words, morphologic hematology has been given "the new look." The color rendition in the numerous plates is good and the lithography is in register. This is particularly true of figure 84, showing the histochemical characteristics of normal granulocytopenesis with methyl green-pyronin, Sudan black, periodic acid-Schiff and acid phosphatase technics. A similar plate is used in volume 2 to illustrate cells usually encountered in the acute hemocytoblastic, myeloid, lymphatic and monocytic leukemias. Even though the Sudan black and periodic acid-Schiff technics brings out things not demonstrable with May-Grünwald-Giemsa stain, it is still necessary to develop and cultivate a morphologic insight into these problems.

The organization of these volumes is good. For example, the last chapter of Part One more than adequately covers the field of blood groups in 40 pages. This is followed immediately by Part Two, which considers Blood Transfusion. In every instance, an extensive and up-to-date bibliography is conveniently arranged at the end of each chapter rather than at the end of the 10 parts or 2 volumes.

In the sections which deal with disorders of the hematologic tissues, the general plan is to approach the problem from the physiopathologic point of view by incorporating all of the available biochemical and biophysical information. They also follow the general pattern of chapters found in the better texts on internal medicine by discussing each disorder from the standpoint of definition, historical background, general symptomatology, pathogenesis, clinical varieties, evolution and duration, diagnosis and therapy. They differ, however, by including an abundance of hematologic information, including the chemistry and physics of the blood. In other words, hematology has been treated in the broadest possible sense of the word. Schematic representation is employed freely to crystallize thinking about the pathogenesis of some of the diseases. Color photography is not limited to the blood and marrow cells, but is also used extensively to illustrate patients, organs and tissues. There are numerous roentgenograms, graphic illustrations of the clinical course and genealogic tables.

In a work of this magnitude it is difficult to single out certain chapters without slighting others because the quality is equally good for all. However the chapter on Erythremia and Di Guglielmo's Disease is exceedingly well done, as is the one on Plasmocytoma and Plasma Cell Leukemia. Interspersed throughout the two volumes there is a touch of "Ferratiana," which is a tribute to the Italian school of hematology founded by Adolfo Ferrata.

These volumes are highly recommended to anyone who is keenly interested in hematology. This reference work serves as a compact source of information on all phases of hematology. For those who do not read Italian, a modest background in Latin and a little experience with other Romance languages should suffice to unlock the wealth of material in these superbly printed and well bound volumes.—O. F. J.
With the present great interest in the possibility that viruses cause cancer and leukemia, this symposium on viruses and tumor growth is essential reading for all students of the subject. Presented here are not only the results of original investigations by 18 different groups of investigators, but highly revealing give-and-take discussion. Of particular interest are chapters on immunologic factors in viral infections (E. H. Lennetta), factors influencing proliferation of viruses (J. L. Melnick et al.), filterable agent causing leukemia (L. Gross), isolation and identification of tumor viruses (J. W. Beard) and electron microscopy of tumors of known and suspected etiology (L. Dmochowski and C. E. Grey). The more than 30 full-page electron micrographs of virus (-like) agents in neoplastic and leukemic cells and tissues presented by the latter investigators are outstanding. F. Duran-Reynals, E. A. Evans, Jr., W. M. Stanley and Joshua Lederberg present highly fundamental and provocative papers. All in all this is a remarkable symposium of a live subject with outstanding participants, all brought together by Dr. Leon Dmochowski at M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute of Houston. It is excellently edited and makes for very interesting reading.—W. D.


This is an excellent book taking up in detail the two most important facets of leukemic research: etiology and therapy. Under etiology (197 pages) are discussed viral, chemical, racial, hereditary and individual factors. There is a very large and rather unique section on endocrinologic relationships to leukemic proliferation. Therapy is covered in the rest of the book (over 200 pages). Included here are all the latest chemotherapeutic developments, presented in utmost detail. The book is highly recommended, although it is not a comprehensive work in the total field of leukemia.—W. D.


The preface states that this book sets out to facilitate the study of hematologic disease, a worthy endeavor, most people would say, especially in these days of ever increasing complexity of the field. The book originated with an exhibit designed for the Vth (Paris) Congress of the International Society of Hematology held in 1954. Many modifications were made in transferring exhibit plaques to the printed page. The authors state that the book is designed not so much for hematologists as for the practicing physician. The work is well printed and is characterized by a mass of numerous and excellent tables, schematic diagrams, illustrations in black and white and in color, charts and figures. The outstanding feature of the book, to this reviewer, were the truly remarkable illustrations using phase contrast, electron micrograph, and shadow casting and cinematographic technics, etc. Descriptions of lymphocytes, monocytes, plasmocytes, etc. are topnotch. All the fine points in neomorphology such as centrosome, Golgi apparatus, familiar to readers of Bessis writings, here, together with data on experimental histology (effects of ultracentrifugation, etc.), newer work on ferritin, hemosiderin, etc. All the numerous fields of present-day hematology are included, although in variable degree depending upon the interests of the authors. The coagulation data lend themselves unusually well to tabular and schematic rendition, and of course there are no wasted words. Clinical data are often graphically presented in the form of the stylized human figure with the various abnormalities graphically depicted. The book is completed by a section on diagnosis.

This is an unusual book and certainly a useful one. The practitioner will find it of considerable help, and the hematologist will find that the numerous illustrations alone are
worth the price of admission. This is a good book to own (and perhaps at times to copy from).—W. D.

Leitfaden der Blutmorphologie. Lydia Schudel. Stuttgart, Germany, Georg Thieme Verlag, 1958. $3.50.


The Schudel is a small (53 page), unpretentious (paper-bound) manual of peripheral blood morphology in which the art of the printer brings to full fruition the print of the artist. Each drawing is meticulously and accurately done and the colors of the May-Grunwald-Giemsa stain are faithfully reproduced. The very brief text is in German, French and English, and each description is conveniently placed opposite its respective plate.

Recommended.

The Teischer is a more elaborate work and is devoted to bone marrow morphology. It stands in sharp contrast to the little Schudel, since most of the pictures are badly reproduced, and in my copy many were marred by a yellow cast or appeared “washed out.” Some of the drawings are rather crude and in fact, a few even appear to be caricatures of the actual cells. I do not think that many hematologists would agree with the author’s distinctions among neutrophilic, eosinophilic and basophilic myeloblasts.

Not Recommended.

Although each atlas bears the name Georg Thieme, it should be pointed out that the Georg Thieme, VEB, is a product of East Germany, and bears no relation, except by name, to the original Georg Thieme, now located in Stuttgart. The contrasting qualities of these two works are perhaps symbolic of other differences between East and West Germany.—R. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

Epilepsy. Manfred Sakel, New York, Philosophical Library, 1958. 204 pp. $5.00.


