BOOK REVIEWS


"Autologous Transfusions" is an account of the authors' experience with autologous blood transfusions (blood drawn from a patient and later used for the same patient) in a large group of patients over a 10-yr period. The historical aspects of this procedure are interesting and informative. However, the book suffers from the lack of a good scientific review of the effects of controlled blood loss on cardiovascular and endocrine function, transcapillary refilling, and plasma protein kinetics. In addition, the many tables and case reports could readily have been condensed into a few concise and illustrative examples. The procedure advocated does have merit in selected patients (pregnancy and homologous blood incompatibility), but is not put into perspective with regard to newer practices of blood banking, such as the use of packed red cells, frozen cells, and albumin preparations. The usefulness of this monograph would appear to be primarily historical and to serve as a reminder of a technique that can, in selected instances, be an answer to a difficult problem in blood replacement.—John J. Skillman, M.D.


This book contains the proceedings of a recent symposium on iron deficiency. There are over 30 contributions relating to different aspects of iron metabolism. The subject matter varies from the "Nutritional Value of Wine as Regards to its Iron Content" to five papers dealing with the prevalence of iron deficiency in different European countries. Interspersed is an excellent review entitled "Factors Affecting Iron Absorption." There is considerable repetition in some of the subject matter covered, especially in reference to iron requirements in growth and pregnancy. Unfortunately the continuity of the material in the various contributions is not as good as one might expect from the title of the volume. For those interested in iron metabolism this book may serve as a fair reference source.—Lewis R. Weintraub, M.D.

FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL HEMATOLOGY. By Byrd S. Leavell and Oscar A. Thorup, Jr. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 659 pages. $18.00.

As do previous editions, the third edition of this general hematology textbook covers the broad field of "hematology," including disorders of the red cell, white cell, hemostatic mechanisms, and plasma cell-lymphocyte series. It is the authors' stated purpose to present a readable, concise, yet comprehensive volume of clinical hematology. To meet this objective in the face of an ever growing body of knowledge, they have expanded the text by 120 pages and have done considerable rewriting. While maintaining the organization of the previous edition relatively unchanged, new material has been added on the examination of the bone marrow and to almost every discussion of pathophysiology. The chapter on hemolytic disorders is reorganized to a new classification based on pathophysiologic mechanisms and patterns of inheritance, rather than on the description of specific disease states previously employed. The description of the hemoglobinopathies now recognizes the clinical importance of functional characteristics of the abnormal hemoglobins. Chapters on leukemia and lymphomas have been rewritten to provide up-to-date information on evaluation and therapy. With the need to expand the text, approximately 15 pages on laboratory methodology had been eliminated without adverse effect. Though very few new schematics or photographs appear in this edition, the text is now referenced to a set of film strips that provide 299 color photomicrographs of morphologic material covering
all areas of clinical hematology. (Unfortunately this set of Kodachromes was not made available for review.) Finally, the reference lists for most chapters have been greatly expanded. In the case of the hemostasis section, the number of references has more than doubled.

Certainly, this book offers the reader a well-paced, extremely readable discussion of a large number of areas in hematology. The authors have been highly selective of their material and avoid the pitfall of burdening the reader with temporal controversies and disagreements. The writing style is clear, and the quality of the presentation sustained throughout. Perhaps the only criticism may be directed at the relative emphasis given various sections, especially in the area of red cell disorders. At present, the text would seem to be most suitable for a physician embarking upon postgraduate training in the hematology-oncology subspecialty. For him, it provides a balanced presentation of the spectrum of abnormalities that are the present day responsibility of a hematologist. From the viewpoint of the undergraduate medical student, internist, or general physician, the text may be somewhat unbalanced away from those disorders that are most common in clinical practice. This is especially true in the case of the anemias associated with infection, renal disease, neoplasia, blood loss, and iron deficiency of mild severity. Depth of coverage in these areas is far less than that devoted to the discussion of relatively rare hemolytic anemias. In the same vein, the book’s organization about specific disease states, while useful for descriptive purposes, may fail to provide an organized, logical approach to anemia, white cell, or hemostatic disorders for a physician other than the subspecialist.
—Robert S. Hillman, M.D.


This book begins with a cute poem that skillfully summarizes the knowledge on the lymphocyte in 1969. It has the defects of many Proceedings of Conferences. The Conference was held in June 1969 and was not received for review until June 1971. In this interval there have been tremendous advances made in the understanding of feedback regulation of lymphopoietic and other cell cultures. Despite the delay in publication and the inevitable hiatus in information that the contemporary investigator seeks, it remains an extremely useful book, and much of the discussion following the various presentations has led to the more recent studies that are now being published. Much of the book is devoted to presentations on peripheral blood lymphocyte cultures in mammals and some forms of lower vertebrates. There are constructive presentations on the in vitro induction of immunity and provocative studies on the macrophage lymphocyte interactions in culture. The presentations on the mixed lymphocyte interaction are particularly good. Contributions on the relationship of the antilymphocytic serum in thymectomized animals and mixed lymphocyte reactions are of value. Perhaps the most useful part of the book is the presentation of workshops where there is stimulating discussion on recognition mechanisms, the mechanism of mitogen action, the biochemical and morphologic aspects of transformation in culture, and other aspects. This book ends with a spirited exchange of information, and ideas between the participants are still interesting and of value despite the fact it transpired in 1969. The general good editing of the discussion in the workshop provides a readable text that still seems to carry the flavor of an exchange of ideas.—Eugene P. Cronkite, M.D.