injection of transfer factor, clinical improvement was noted in 7 of the 12 patients treated. The observed improvement could not necessarily be attributed to the transfer factor, although in two patients repeated remissions followed transfer factor administration on repeated occasions. The remissions included freedom from infection, regression of splenomegaly, and improvement of eczema. An unexpected finding was a decrease in bleeding in three of the ten patients who had bleeding, although the platelet count did not increase significantly. The study also shows that those patients who had defective monocyte IgG-receptors responded to transfer factor, whereas only one patient with normal receptors showed any response. Abstracter’s comment: We can confirm these results that we have obtained in four children with Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome treated with transfer factor, although in our patients no effect on the bleeding tendency and on the platelet count was observed.—M.G.B.


Host response to endotoxin was determined in splenectomized and sham-operated animals. The clearance rates of carbon and of endotoxin were normal after splenectomy and increased in conjunction with RES activation associated with endotoxin tolerance, both in splenectomized and sham-operated groups. Opsonization, phagocytosis, and removal of nonspecific inert particles or biological material were not affected in the splenectomized group.—J.M.B.

BOOK REVIEWS

Cancer Chemotherapy. By Edward Greenwald. New York, Medical Examination, 483 pages, $10.00.

Cancer Chemotherapy provides the reader with a concise outline of the uses and limitations of cancer chemotherapeutic agents. The format is good, with a brief discussion of each drug in the first part of the book and a shorter disease-oriented section comprising the last 100 pages. The section on the use of chemotherapeutic agents in nonneoplastic diseases is particularly well done.

The book has several major weak spots. Most of the chapters begin with “first principles” too superficial for any reader; e.g., “Under no circumstances should a drug be used . . . where the side effects will outweigh the results.” Several statements are inaccurate or, at least, debatable; e.g., that the intrapleural instillation of atabrine and nitrogen mustard should be avoided because “not only do they add
nothing, but they also cause a great deal of pleural pain and fever.” One may question the wisdom of such sweeping generalizations as that in the section on breast cancer: “a given treatment should be continued if it succeeds in arresting progression of metastases even if it fails to produce objection response.” Finally some of the chemotherapeutic regimens are described too casually. In the chapter on breast cancer, a “particularly useful program” consisting of three agents is mentioned without any specific details of dosage or toxicity.

The major criticism, however, is that this new second edition is already outdated. The section on hypercalcemia barely mentions mithramycin, while describing in some detail the usefulness of phosphates. There is a lengthy section on the uses of the various alkylating agents in Hodgkin’s disease, but only two pages on the important subject of combination chemotherapy. The important conclusions of the Ann Arbor conference on Hodgkin’s disease published in November 1971 could not be included. These are serious drawbacks for a soft-covered book which aims to serve as an up-to-date handbook.

Despite these many drawbacks, this book might be useful to the initiate as a starting point for further reading. The bibliography is excellent and is both extensive and practical.—Sheldon Kaufman, M.D.


This is a well conceived and well written book that admirably accomplishes its intent. Designed as a basic presentation, it provides a general understanding of the immunopathology of human disease and of the role of immune mechanisms in cellular and tissue reactions. The book is quite comprehensive and includes accurate assessments of the pertinent literature up to 1971. The format is also pleasing. Although the illustrations consist of diagrammatic line drawings rather than photomicrographs of cells and tissues, this does not detract in any way from the clarity of exposition.

This book is highly recommended as an introduction to the pathophysiology of immune mechanisms for medical and biology students. Its only drawback is its price. If this publication were made available as a paperback edition, it would doubtless attract a very wide readership.

—Earl I. Kasdon, M.D.

**BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW**


Note: Includes chapter “The Radiation Syndromes” by E.P. Cronkite and T.M. Fliedner.
