
BOOK REVIEWS

Diseases of Blood Forming Organs in the Light of Biopsies of Bone Marrow, Spleen, and Lymph Nodes. By JULIAN ALEKSANDROWICZ. D. E. Friedlein, Krakow, Poland (1946). Pp. 265, with 57 illustrations, 12 in color, 45 microphotograms.

In the first chapter of this text, the technic of biopsies of the sternum, spleen, and lymph nodes is described. The anatomy and physiology of the blood-forming centers is discussed in the second chapter; the role of the nervous system, the endocrines and other organs in the third chapter. The fourth chapter deals with the preparation and evaluation of myelo-, spleno-, and lymphadenograms. In chapters 5 to 11, an original classification and a detailed description of the diseases of the blood forming organs is given.

It is astonishing that under difficult circumstances the author has been able to gather the material for his book. The publisher is also to be congratulated on the good printing and excellent stock.

La Cultura in Vitro del Midollo Osseo. By AMINTA FIESCHI AND GIOVANNI ASTALDI. Tipografia del Libro, Pavia, 1946. Pp. 309.

This book offers a rather complete review of the subject with close to 350 bibliographic references in the Italian, English, German, French, and Russian languages. The technic for the preparation and the study of supravital cultures is given in great detail and with a practical approach. Almost half of this work is devoted to the review of the literature, the technical aspects of the problem, and the normal marrow in supravital preparations. Of the pathologic conditions, only pernicious anemia, myelogenous and lymphatic leukemia, and Cooley's anemia are studied and here the progressive changes of the bone marrow elements as seen in *in vitro* cultures are given in great detail.

As to pernicious anemia, the "problem of the megaloblast" is "solved" with the contention that megaloblasts arise directly from "histio-endothelial elements" and not from a red stem cell common to both megaloblasts and normoblasts. The shift from megaloblastic to normoblastic marrow following liver extract therapy is interpreted as resulting from transformation of megaloblasts into normoblasts.

Bone marrow culture from cases of chronic myelogenous and lymphatic leukemia did not reveal any morphologic or developmental abnormalities which could be used as differentiating normal from leukemic processes. In acute leukemia, hemopoiesis was more deeply altered; the largest number of "hemocytoblasts" showed no evolution toward either myeloid maturation or fibroblast formation.

The authors believe that their observations of the marrow from cases of Cooley's anemia point toward a deficiency in red blood cell maturation based on a primary marrow lesion. This abnormality appears to result from nuclear rather than cytoplasmic deficiency.

The work would be difficult to read for anyone not familiar with the nomenclature of the Italian hematologic school. The style tends to be heavy and prolix. In so far as the monograph brings together much scattered material it represents a valuable contribution to the literature of hematology. The photomicrographs and colored plates are numerous; the latter are beautifully lithographed and very effective from the standpoint of illustrating the text material.

Disorders of the Blood. By SIR LIONEL E. H. WHITBY AND C. J. C. BRITTON. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 5th edition. Pp. 665. \$10.00.

This fifth edition is an expanded and thoroughly revised version of one of the standard single volume texts in hematology. Comparison with the earlier work reveals much new material in the chapters on the hemolytic anemias, hematologic immunology, the anemias of infancy and childhood, blood transfusion, and technic. The text has been increased by sixty-two pages and four new colored illustrations of bone marrow have been added.

The systematic subdivision of the material into well-defined cubbyholes and the clarity of presentation

which marked the earlier editions are well maintained. Of especial note are the meaty and concise summaries at the end of each chapter, the careful subject and author indexes, and the critically chosen references, which are mainly to key papers. The format is pleasing and the colored plates are good although one could wish for a few more colored illustrations.

Although the aim of the authors is to integrate disorders of the blood with the general field of internal medicine, the increasing volume of knowledge in this specialized field has necessarily limited the discussion to hematology and closely allied subjects.

The discussions on therapy might well be expanded and the frequent use of proprietary British pharmaceuticals as examples curtailed. A more critical analysis of some of the newly proposed procedures in immunohematology, as, for example, the transfusion of 50 cc. of blood as an *in vivo* test of compatibility, might have been expected.

On the whole, the relative completeness of the book, its clarity of style, and the exposition of most of the recent advances mark it as a very welcome addition to the library of students, practitioners, and internists interested in keeping abreast of a rapidly expanding field, and as a valuable ready reference textbook. The chapter on methods, particularly that part dealing with the Price-Jones curves, is particularly good.

Practical Malariaology. By PAUL F. RUSSELL, M.D., M.P.H., LUTHER S. WEST, Ph.D., AND REGINALD D. MANWELL, Sc.D. Prepared under the auspices of the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London, 1946. Pp. 684. Price \$8.00.

This is a manual originally designed for the use of the American armed forces. It was undertaken in the closing months of the war and was completed in the postwar period. Although originally intended as a military manual, it has been rewritten primarily from the standpoint of civilian needs.

The writing is done by a well known malarialogist, Colonel Russell, who was aided by an entomologist, Dr. West, and a protozoologist, Dr. Manwell. A happier combination could hardly have been conceived.

The work is distinguished by its eminent practicality, and by the enormous amount of very readable information which is compressed into a relatively small space. There are certainly no wasted words, and it is refreshing to see things put down in clear and lucid fashion. The diagrams, charts, and figures are well conceived. There are some excellent colored plates of parasites. The book is divided into six sections as follows: The Parasite, The Mosquito, The Man, The Community, Prophylaxis and Control, and Therapeutic Malaria. The very practical chapters on "Field Technic" and "Laboratory Technic" with exact directions for collection and study of specimens are, in their particular fields, classics. There is a very interesting chapter on "The Spleen Index" in which palpation and measurement of the spleen are thoroughly discussed. Hackett's suggestions for classifying enlargement of the spleen from 0 to 5 are followed.

In the section on prophylaxis and control, there is a very complete chapter on larvicides with particular reference to D.D.T. A thorough review of the chemical nature, methods of using this substance, toxic effects, etc., is presented. A seventy page appendix deals with the world anophelinae.

It is a pleasure to recommend this work to anyone interested in the study and control of malaria, which by many is considered to be the world's most important disease.