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## BOOK REVIEW

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BLOOD AND BONE MARROW PATTERNS, *G. D. Talbott, E. R. Hunsicker, and Jonah Li*. New York & London, Grune & Stratton, Inc., 1957, 59 pp., \$12.00

To a small coterie of hematologists who collect hematology atlases in satisfaction of both bibliophilic and aesthetic urges, publication of a new atlas is an event of major importance. The atlas collected and written by Drs. Talbott, Hunsicker and Li is wisely directed to a much wider audience of students, technicians and physicians who will find it a useful, straight-forward and uncomplicated guide for study or reference. It is sufficiently extensive in its coverage to be of value in most situations, without being encyclopedic.

The authors and publishers of an atlas must of necessity make several arbitrary decisions regarding the audience to which the book is directed, and the method of presentation. The number of atlases in publication today reflects the varied ways in which these decisions have been made. The present volume is directed to those who need a beginning study guide and teaching aid, or an occasional reference source. Color photomicrography, rather than drawings, has been employed. The stubborn problem of trying to show all of the pertinent abnormalities for a given disorder illustrated in one microscopic field has been dealt with very effectively by reproducing on one page a number of related fields, each showing one or more of the abnormalities. A brief caption-text emphasizes the salient points and together with the illustrations brings out the pattern of the changes in the blood or marrow produced by the disease process. This is certainly to be preferred to the very incomplete picture that is frequently given by a single photomicrograph. It approaches the informative but "synthetic" pictures produced by illustrators without the hazard of loss of realism found in some of the more or less highly stylized atlases.

The book is well printed and ring-bound to lie flat on a desk. The color printing is of encouragingly high quality. There is some unfortunate variability in background color, staining intensity and density of the photomicrographs themselves. This constitutes a formidable technical problem, but fortunately these difficulties detract little from the usefulness of the book.—*Scott Swisher, M.D.*