BOOK REVIEWS

BLUT UND BLUTKRANKHEITEN, Ed. 4, *Ludwig Heilmeyer and Herbert Begemann*. Handbuch der inneren Medizin, Berlin, Springer-Verlag, 1951, pp. 1178.

This one volume text of hematology is, in many respects, a remarkable work. It begins with a comprehensive chapter on the plasma and the plasma proteins, in which electrophoresis and the sedimentation rate are fully discussed. There is an excellent chapter on the bone marrow, with smaller chapters on spleen and lymph node puncture, all beautifully illustrated with colored illustrations directly in the pages of the text. An extensive discussion of the red blood cell in all its characteristics follows, with a truly outstanding presentation of hemoglobin synthesis and of porphyrin and bile pigment metabolism. Blood groups and transfusions are adequately covered. About as comprehensive a discussion of pernicious anemia as one can find anywhere is next presented. With the aid of a large number of graphic and often colorful illustrations, the hemolytic anemias are presented in about one hundred pages. In the discussion of autoimmune hemolytic anemia, there is perhaps too much reliance on minor variations in this condition, often described, as is the custom in Europe, by an eponym. The white cell system and its pathology is discussed in a large section of about one hundred and twenty pages, followed by another chapter of one hundred and thirty pages on the various disorders of the reticuloendothelial system. There are shorter chapters on other subjects, including the hypoplasias of the marrow, blood parasites, and splenic diseases. The bibliographic references, which are truly encyclopedic, take up one hundred and thirty pages and are followed by an authors' index of sixty pages and a subject index.

This monumental work indicates that German hematology has again come to the fore. The text must rank with that of Wintrobe as amongst the very best in present day hematology. The outstanding qualities of the old time German print work and lithography are clearly apparent in this volume, and the publishers are to be congratulated on a remarkable comeback.—*William Dameshek*

INFECTIOUS MONONUCLEOSIS, *Sidney Leibowitz*. Modern Medical Monographs No. 5, New York, Grune & Stratton, 1953, pp. 163.

This monograph is based on a careful review of the literature and the presentation of a relatively few but thoroughly studied cases, twenty-five in all. There are excellent chapters on clinical features, with special considerations of cardiac and neurologic disturbances, and of the hematologic and the serologic abnormalities. Twenty-three pages of case reports are presented, together with nineteen pages of references. It is unfortunate that illustrations of blood cells, particularly in color, were not included, although this is understandable in view of the high cost of color reproduction, nor is there any adequate discussion of the histology of the bone marrow, spleen, and lymph nodes. Nevertheless, this is an admirable little volume which can be highly recommended, particularly for its clinical features.—*William Dameshek*

GOUT AND GOUTY ARTHRITIS, *John H. Talbott*. Modern Medical Monographs No. 7, New York, Grune & Stratton, 1953, pp. 104.

This concise, well printed book is written by the same author who has contributed valuable papers on gout as well as a book published in 1943. It fulfills a definite need since it includes much new information as to pathogenesis and treatment of this by no means rare disease.

Gout is the only form of arthritis accompanied and actually preceded by a sustained hyperuricemia. Talbott believes that this phenomenon is due to increased formation of urates in the body, not to a disturbance of renal function or diminished destruction of urates in the tissue. This theory has found considerable support in recent isotope studies

with labelled N_{15}, which showed that the miscible pool or uric acid was twice as large or larger in gouty individuals than in controls.

Gout occurs frequently enough to warrant a practical knowledge of the old, established, as well as some new therapeutic agents. Talbott's chapter on therapy discusses these drugs authoritatively, particularly colchicine, cortisone, ACTH, benemid and butazolidin. He rightly stresses the value of colchicine in acute attacks and of benemid, a strong uricosuric agent, which he and his co-workers have studied intensively, during the intercritical phase. The use of small amounts of colchicine as a prophylactic given over long periods is recommended, but seems to this reviewer a somewhat risky procedure with little evidence that recurrent attacks can thus be prevented.

While the treatment of gout will always need individualization, the physician has a much greater choice of effective drugs at his disposal today than he did ten years ago. As Talbott points out, the physician can forego dietary restrictions for his patients and practice moderation in their treatment.

The book is well written and contains a selected bibliography, a few tables, and twenty-four x-ray pictures. The reviewer hopes that in another edition some of these pictures can be replaced by a few selected clinical and pathologic reproductions.—*H. G. Brugsch.*

NEWS AND VIEWS

Foreign Newsletter—Scotland

TO THE EDITOR:

The four Scottish universities are all active in the field of hematology, and it is worth remembering that the attitude toward this subject in Scotland differs in some respects from that prevailing in many of the English medical schools. In Scotland, hematology and its related research is primarily directed by internists who have developed a special interest in blood disorders. In England, on the other hand, both routine work and investigation in hematology are largely left to the clinical pathologist, who is usually a laboratory worker rather than a clinician.

ABERDEEN

Professor H. W. Fullerton and Dr. W. J. A. Davie have studied blood coagulability following ingestion of fat and the effects of heparin on such lipemia. Dr. W. R. Gauld, in collaboration with Dr. J. Innes, in Edinburgh, and Dr. H. N. Robson, has surveyed the incidence and types of six hundred and forty-seven cases of leukemia observed in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Dr. Robson, who has continued to be interested in capillary resistance and in myelosclerosis, has now left Aberdeen for Adelaide, Australia where he will be Chairman of the Department of Medicine. Dr. J. Walker has studied fetal blood at various stages of normal human pregnancy.

EDINBURGH

Professor L. S. P. Davidson toured Africa for three months at the beginning of 1953, visiting many hospitals and clinics and discussing, in particular, the problem of nutritional anemia in Africans.

Dr. J. Blake, a Dublin graduate (who has been spending a year as an Assistant in the Department of Medicine at Edinburgh University) has collaborated with Dr. P. Rechnitzer (a Canadian graduate from London, Ontario who holds a similar appointment in Edinburgh) in a study of postgastrectomy anemia.