# Book Reviews

**Hyaluronidase and Cancer.** Ewan Cameron. Long Island City, New York: Pergamon Press, 1966. 245 pp. $8.

This book starts with the premise that cancer results from the acquisition by normal cells of the ability to alter their immediate environment, and that this permits and stimulates the cells to proliferate and invade. Hyaluronidase, an enzyme which can hydrolyze some of the acid mucopolysaccharides in the ground substance surrounding cells, is selected as *the* all important environment-altering factor. From this starting point almost all the aspects of neoplastic cell behavior are explained. It is proposed that the continuous release of hyaluronidase is the fundamental difference between the neoplastic and the normal cell. The various chapters deal with the nature of connective tissue, and the postulated role of hyaluronidase in invasiveness, metastases, nutrition and growth rate, autonomy, plasma glycoproteins, carcinogenesis, and therapy. There is an impressive bibliography to support the interpretations.

Unfortunately, the author's bias clearly influences his selection of bibliography and his interpretation of the literature. All too often citations are from papers of authors whose data and interpretations have been discarded or revised. The text is replete with inaccuracies and misinterpretations, particularly in biochemical areas. The book may have a stimulating value for the expert who can sift out the biases, but it is definitely not for the neophyte.

**Richard J. Winzler**

**Principles of Hematology.** James W. Linman. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1966. 621 pp. $12.50.

This book is intended to be an introduction to clinical hematology for medical students, interns, resident physicians, and medical practitioners who are not hematologists. It covers all of hematology from cellular morphology and blood cell development through red cell, white cell, platelet, and other disorders. The book is concise, well written, and contains few, if any, typographical errors, but has several drawbacks in this reviewer's opinion. A major defect is the absence of color plates. Another defect is the bibliographic arrangement. The bibliography occurs at the end of the book, and the only references to the bibliography, which is arranged by chapters, occur in the index. A list of other standard hematologic reference texts and atlases of blood cells would have been useful.

There are a number of specific instances in which the reviewer would quarrel with the author: the failure to distinguish between remission induction and remission maintenance in acute leukemia; the choice of recommended dosages of busulfan and Chlorambucil for chronic granulocytic and chronic lymphocytic leukemia, respectively; the choice of a dose as high as 0.6 mg/kg of nitrogen mustard for Hodgkin's disease therapy; the failure to mention that cyclophosphamide has a platelet-sparing action; the author's advice against the use of corticosteroids in lymphomas; the failure to describe the frequent occurrence of splenic hemorrhage when splenic aspirates are attempted in patients with myeloid metaplasia (particularly those with high platelet counts); the failure to ascribe some value to the staging of patients with lymphomas in choosing therapy modalities; the recommendation of $\gamma$-globulin administration as a means of preventing infection in patients with hypogammaglobulinemia due to chronic lymphocytic leukemia; the pessimism of the author regarding the curability of patients with localized lymphomas; the failure to devote more space to the Vinca alkaloids, e.g., Vinblastine for therapy for Hodgkin's disease and Vincristine for remission induction in acute lymphocytic leukemia; and the failure to discuss the significance of long-term survivors with acute leukemia.

Despite the above criticisms, this volume fills a need which is not clearly met by any other book available today as an introduction to all phases of hematology. It is highly readable, accurate, and written so as to encourage the neophyte to delve deeper into this exciting medical discipline.

**Jesse L. Steinfeld**

**Molecular and Cellular Basis of Antibody Formation.** Proceedings of a Symposium held in Prague, June 1–5, 1964. J. Šterzl (ed.). New York: Academic Press, Inc., 1965. 683 pp. $20.

This is a well-organized report of some of the latest achievements in the field. The papers published in this book were presented at a Symposium held in Prague on June 1–5, 1964. While the completeness of this publication leaves something to be desired, it well reflects the views of the best known scientific groups. In the exponentially expanding field of immunology, this book is unquestionably one of the more valuable reviews of the results of recent studies.

**A. Nowotny**

**Atlas of Histology—Normal Microscopic Anatomy of Man.** Ernst. von Herrath. Translation from the German by C. H. Keysser and P. H. Bartels. New York: Hafner Publishing Company, 1966. 184 pp. $22.50.

This is an English translation of an atlas, Normal Microscopic Anatomy of Man, printed in Germany. The photomicrographs preserve all the beautiful perfection of the original, and extend from a few electron microscope pictures to hundreds of colored ones taken by light microscope, all of which are impeccable. In fact, they are so beautiful that sometimes they resemble the drawings in the book of pathologic histology by Max Borst, a classic of 50 years ago. But these are not drawings. They are real photomicrographs, and Dr. von Herrath must be complimented for doing a superb job. At the end of the book is a section by Peter Bartels on Practical Photomicrography which may also be useful. The book is completed by an index.

The price of $22.50 is high but is incredibly low when one considers that there are more than 400 color plates in this book. In view of the price, the book may not be too popular with medical and biology students who would be most likely to profit from it. However, pathologists will also find it an excellent reference atlas to be consulted frequently.

**Renato Baserga**