Book Reviews

Carcinoma of the Alimentary Tract—Etiology and Pathogenesis. Walter J. Burdette (ed.). Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1965. 233 pp.

This book contains a series of 18 articles on cancer of the gastrointestinal tract which were presented at a small meeting. The initial section contains 5 papers on the epidemiology of cancer of the gastrointestinal tract in man. An increasing accumulation of information is presented on differing incidences and changes in incidences of neoplasms in particular segments of the gastrointestinal tract in a number of population groups.

The second section contains 3 papers on spontaneous gastrointestinal neoplasms in animals and 4 papers on induced tumors. Animal neoplasms of the gastrointestinal tract resembling their human counterparts have been slow in being found. However, this review brings together an impressive group of such models, so that scientists interested in this area of research will now have a number of experimental systems to work with.

The third section deals with pathogenesis of cancer of the alimentary tract in man and contains a diverse group of papers dealing with possible precancerous lesions, genetic factors, the role of tobacco, and also the possible role of carcinogens which may occur in plants.

The book presents a large amount of information in a relatively brief form and is a valuable contribution in an extremely important, complicated, and rapidly progressing field of cancer research.

Lee W. Wattenberg

Recent Results in Cancer Research, Vol. 4. Laser Cancer Research. Leon Goldman. P. Rentchnick (ed.). New York: Springer-Verlag, Inc., 1966. 62 pp. $4.

This monograph offers a brief survey of the use of the laser in cancer research. The book begins with short descriptions of different types of lasers, their physical principles, instrumentation, operating technics, and safety requirements. Subsequent chapters deal with general effects of laser radiation of non-neoplastic cells and tissues *in vitro* and *in vivo*, on experimental tumors in animals, and on a few selected types of neoplasms in human patients. Although none of the topics is considered in detail, more than 100 pertinent references are cited for those wishing to pursue these questions further. The text is written in a nontechnical style and generously illustrated with photographs. Despite its lack of technical data, the book should be useful to biologists and physicists as an introduction to the use of the laser in cancer research.

Arthur C. Upton

Recent Results in Cancer Research, Vol. 5. The Thymus. Donald Metcalf. P. Rentchnick (ed.). New York: Springer-Verlag, Inc., 1966. 144 pp. $6.

Dr. Metcalf's monograph, "The Thymus," offers in compact form a comprehensive introduction to current research on this subject. The scope covers broad areas of thymic morphology, physiology, immunology, and their relation to leukemia and other neoplasms. Theoretic aspects of thymic function and the newer speculations which point to future work are provocative and generously supplied. The text derives in large part from the author's extensive experience in this field, and heavily emphasizes the speculative aspects of immunobiology and neoplasia, which diminishes its value as a general text. Considering its intended use for nonspecialists, the anatomic and morphologic aspects are sparsely illustrated (13 photographs). While the author disclaims in the preface any attempt to produce an exhaustive review, some specific omissions seem arbitrary. Thus, in the section on leukemogenesis, despite six major studies published before 1965, the author states that, "The preleukemic histology of the thymus has not been studied in detail in virus- and chemical carcinogen-induced lymphoid leukemia." In the overall view, the book will be a good addition for the library: students will appreciate its clarity, and experienced thymus workers will read it attentively.

Richard Siegler