

## Book Reviews

**Phase Contrast and Interference Microscopy for Cell Biologists.** K. F. A. Ross. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1967. 238 pp. \$14.

The author contends that the use of phase and, more especially, interference microscopy has advanced the state of the art to where these can be quantitatively applied to problems of living-cell organelle dry-weight determination, as well as to dimensional analysis in living cells as they vary with time. This idea is well supported by a wealth of examples taken from a wide variety of biologic material. All of the technics covered employ methods of recognition of differences in phase change introduced by a cell or portion of a cell as it diffracts incident illumination. The author, who has devoted a major portion of his professional life to refractometry of living cells, argues that there has been a dearth of application of these tools, e.g., to hematology, where mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration can be determined individually in populations of cells and where nucleolar dry-weight changes in lymphocytes attendant with antibody elaboration can be sequentially followed.

More than half of the book is devoted to the field of interference microscopy. The current development of integrating technics and microdensitometric analysis promises an even more valuable future for these instruments than that already demonstrated in analyzing muscle structure and histochemical quantitation of alkaline phosphatase.

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**Cancer of the Head and Neck.** Proceedings of the International Workshop on Cancer of the Head and Neck, held in New York, 1965. J. Conley (ed.). Washington, D.C.: Butterworth, Inc., 1967. 650 pp. \$30.

*Cancer of the Head and Neck* is an excellent symposium of related topics presenting personal experiences and informative review. The book can serve as a handy reference to the internist, the general surgeon, and radiation therapist, but for the head and neck specialist it lacks thoroughness in the presentation of treatment for many of the individual sites. Some of the chapters, however, are very well researched and well presented. Special commendation may be made for the chapters on tumors in children, mesenchymal tumors, salivary gland tumors, and radiation therapy. As a general reference on the nature of epidermoid cancer of individual sites in the head and neck regions, it is worthwhile.

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**Treatment of Burkitt's Tumour.** Proceedings of a Conference Organized by the Chemotherapy Panel of the International

Union Against Cancer. UICC Monograph Series, Vol. 8. Joseph H. Burchenal and Denis P. Burkitt (eds.). New York: Springer-Verlag, 1967. 268 pp. \$21.50.

This book's title reflects only a portion of its content. Critical presentation of clinical manifestations, pathology, tissue culture studies, fine structure observations, and epidemiology are included. Appraisal of the evidence implicating a herpes-like virus in etiology is balanced by similar data for Reovirus type 3. Abundant clinical data of more than 285 cases then follow from the three distinguished chemotherapists of this disease in Africa: Burkitt, Clifford, and Ngu. Their reports are meticulous, laced with experience, and well illustrated. Sections follow on neoplasia similar to Burkitt's tumor found elsewhere and new chemotherapeutic theories and practices in related neoplasms on other continents. A pervasive belief among the most experienced observers that host defenses are clinically discernible is supported by case reports and by laboratory investigations reported in detail.

The participants comprise the world's cadre of experts on this general topic. The book is well printed, indexed, and edited. It is required reading for those who wish to share in the excitement of studying the first autochthonous tumor reproducibly eradicable with chemotherapy. Furthermore, the presumptive viral etiology and the evidence of host immunity may have similar universal importance. The book is a *vade mecum* of Burkitt's tumor; on the same pages it is a more general treatise of exceptional pertinence to the student of cancer.

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**Advances in Biology of Skin. Volume 8.** The Pigmentary System. Proceedings of a Symposium on the Biology of Skin held at the University of Oregon Medical School. William Montagna and Funan Hu (eds.). New York: Pergamon Press, 1967. 659 pp. \$27.

The funding agencies that have recently severely restricted foreign travel might well be reminded of the comments of William James, the American philosopher, on returning from the International Congress of Physiological Psychology held in Paris in 1889: "The open results were, however (as always happens at such gatherings), secondary in real importance to the latent ones—the friendships made, the intimacies deepened, and the encouragement and inspiration which came to everyone from seeing before them in flesh and blood so large a portion of that little army of fellow students from whom and for whom all contemporary psychology exists. The individual worker feels much less isolated in the world after such an experience." (Cited by G. W. Allen, *William James*, p. 310. New York: The Viking Press, 1967.)

Such an atmosphere prevailed at the Eighth Symposium