Surgical Oncology. YOSEF H. PILCH, USA, McGraw-Hill, 1119 pp, 1984, £90.50, ISBN 0 07 049997.

Professor Pilch has gathered together an impressive number of distinguished North American contributors to produce this enormous work which covers the whole spectrum of malignant diseases for which surgery is the mainstay of treatment.

It begins with a useful introduction for those clinicians whose knowledge of the basic concepts of oncology is perhaps a little rusty. This section includes amongst others, chapters on Environmental carcinogenesis, Tumour cell biology and kinetics, Tumour immunology, Viruses in cancer, Monoclonal antibodies and Radiation biology and oncology. It concludes with chapters on the physiological aspects of malignant disease and the design of controlled trials.

The main bulk of the book consists of detailed reviews of the rationale for care and management of specific malignancies together with alternatives. Malignant disease of the head and neck, thorax, breast, abdominal cavity, genito-urinary tract are extensively covered as are tumours of the brain and musculo-skeletal system. The final chapters are concerned with the management of pain, the paraneoplastic syndromes and rehabilitation and reconstruction in patients with malignant disease.

As always when a work of this size is produced the bibliography lacks the most up-to-date references and there are few included that are later than 1979. In an attempt to overcome this problem many of the chapters have an additional "selected bibliography" covering papers appearing in the 2 or 3 years prior to publication of the book but which are not discussed in the text.

My criticisms are few. The X-ray plates have not all reproduced well and some have been cropped too closely to allow easy interpretation. The operative diagrams in the chapters on the nasopharynx and especially the larynx are very poor.

This book is primarily a reference book for surgeons and, provided the North American bias is taken into account, makes excellent post graduate reading for those studying for their surgical diploma. It has a limited appeal however to those in non-surgical disciplines.

Surgical Oncology is a comprehensive work that should make a valuable addition to any post graduate library but at £90.50 is unlikely to find favour with the individual pocket.

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Immune-Deficient Animals—4th International Workshop on Immune-Deficient Animals in Experimental Research, Chexbres 1982. Ed. B. SORDAT. Basel, Karger Press, XIV+446 pp, 1984, \$117, ISBN 3 8055 3741 7.

This book, the Proceedings of a Workshop held 2 years ago, is divided into six sections, each headed by a position paper followed by, for the most part, short papers on detailed experimental studies. From the first section on natural resistance in these animals, immunologists will be pleased to learn that immune-deficient rodents are capable of generating as much complexity (and work) as their immune-competent relatives. A large second section is headed "new and combined immune defects" but is something of a pot-pourri, without any obvious review or rapporteur-type paper. A rather short but interesting section treats the important practical topic of disease in these animals. In the succeeding section on tumorigenicity assays, the position paper is a good *critical* overview, which points out that failure of particular tumours to take remains not uncommon, for reasons that are not understood. Sections on metastatic potential and on therapy of human tumour xenografts complete the volume. In the latter section, one would like to have seen rather more prominent discussion of the truisms that although the parenchyma of these tumours is undoubtedly human, the stroma is murine and the pharmacokinetics of injected drugs likewise.

The book is up-to-date (1983 references) and workers in a wide variety of subjects, who may be considering using immune-deficient animals, will almost certainly find a starting-point somewhere in its 450 pages. It is very expensive but Dr Sordat and the publishers have produced a well-edited, high-quality book.

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Purine Metabolism in Man—IV—Clinical and Therapeutic Aspects; Regulatory Mechanisms. (*Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology/Vol. 165 A*). (Eds. C.H.M.M. DE BRUYN, H.A. SIMMONDS and M.M. MULLER) USA, Plenum Press, 555 pp. 1984, \$75, ISBN 0 306 41363 9.

The two volumes *Purine Metabolism in Man IV* contain papers presented at the IV International Symposium on Purine and Pyrimidine metabolism

in Man. Volume A covers Clinical and Therapeutic Aspects: Regulatory Mechanisms and B, Biochemical, Immunological and Cancer Research. Obviously with such a wide scope the information contained within these volumes is considerable. Papers presented cover topics ranging from the molecular analysis of Lesh Nyhan syndrome (HGPRT deficiency) in man using cloned mouse HGPRT sequences to probe DNA isolated from Lesh Nyhan patients to adenine nucleotide biosynthesis in cardiac muscle. Much attention is also paid to the use of the ecto enzyme 5'nucleotidase as a marker for differentiation in normal and leukaemic lymphocytes. It is surprising in view of its extensive use as a marker that the physiological role of this enzyme is still not understood.

The titles of these books are misleading as they include, as expected from the title of the

symposium, a considerable number of papers on pyrimidine metabolism together with details of several potential new anticancer agents which inhibit specific steps in pyrimidine biosynthesis. Most of the papers are short and easily readable with detailed references making it easy to trace background literature. It is a pity however that titles are not included for all references and that lettering on some of the figures is too small to be easily readable. Overall however the books are well produced and there is an adequate index. They should provide a valuable reference source for workers in many fields of medicine and biochemistry..

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Other Books Received

Man and Mouse—Animals in Medical Research. William Paton. Oxford University Press (1984). £2.95. (174 pages). ISBN 0 19 286043 7.

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The Retinoids—Vol.1. Eds: M.B. Sporn, A.B. Roberts and D.S. Goodman. Academic Press, inc (1984). Price not given. (xiii + 424 pages). ISBN 0 12 658101 0.

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General Biophysics—Vol. 2. M.V. Volkenstein. Academic Press, Inc (1983). \$49.99. (ix + 313 pages). ISBN 0 12 723002 5.

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Aplastic Anemia—Stem Cell Biology and Advances in Treatment. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research/Vol. 148. Eds: N.S. Young, A.S. Levine and R.K. Humphries. Alan R. Liss, Inc (1984). £57.00. 392 pages. ISBN 0 8451 0148 X.

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