in hard-back form makes it expensive for the information it contains.

D. PEARSON

**Chemotherapy of Solid Tumours—
Report of a WHO Expert Committee.
Technical Report Series 605. (1977).
106 pp. Sw. fr. 10.00 net. U.S.\$4.00 net.**

This book is one of a series of reports produced by WHO Expert Committees. The members are eminent chemotherapists chosen from around the world; the excellence of their knowledge is reflected in both the comprehensiveness and relatively up-to-date content. However, the reviewer questions the value of such books and wonders to which readers it is directed. The volume is not large enough to be a text book on chemotherapy.

It is perhaps to be regarded as an introduction to chemotherapy for those who are not practising it. There appears to have been a regrettable lack of radiotherapeutic advice in the preparation of this document, resulting in one or two lapses in the text, as in discussing Methotrexate and Razoxane as radiosensitizers.

The report is well written.

N. M. BLEEHEN

**Pathology of Tumours in Laboratory
Animals Vol. 1.—Tumours of the Rat,
Part 2. Ed. V. S. TURUSOV (1976). Lyon:
International Agency for Research on
Cancer. 319 pp. U.S.\$35.00 net.**

This part of Tumours of the Rat includes chapters on the respiratory tract, liver, urogenital system, pituitary, thyroid, adrenal, central and peripheral nervous systems and the heart. As with Part 1, the aim is to establish a standardized terminology in the field of tumours in laboratory rats. This volume will go some way towards this, but there are obvious differences in nomenclature depending on the source of material. In most chapters there is a brief description of the normal structure of the organ. As a result of their brevity these are of limited use, and in some instances omit important features or may be misleading. On nomenclature, these volumes are internally inconsistent. For example, a "benign hepatoma" is described in the liver, while in the 1968 IARC publica-

tion No. 1 on Liver Cancer there was a recommendation that this term should not be used. In the present volume it is being used to designate a "benign neoplasm" while there is an editor's note that the term "hepatoma" in the volume on tumours of the mouse is used for both benign and malignant liver tumours. This is just one example of inconsistency. Many of the chapters give excellent descriptions and illustrations of the tumours, but others are less helpful due to the brevity of the description, as in the nervous system, or in the highly specialized nature of the information, as in the pituitary. For a volume such as this to be successful it is important that the quality of illustration is high. There has been considerable improvement over Part 1, but much remains to be done. For example, in the chapter on tumours of the vagina the selected photographs are often too small to be of use, and following the excellent discussion of the thyroid, many of the illustrations are of poor focus. A good feature of this volume in general is that the authors discuss the problems of differential diagnosis and in particular often refer to the problems in distinguishing hyperplasias from neoplasias. This book can be recommended as a most useful addition to the information which is available on the tumours of laboratory animals.

W. H. BUTLER

**Adjuvant Therapy of Cancer. Ed. S. E.
SALMON and S. E. JONES (1977). Amster-
dam: Elsevier/North-Holland. 646 pp.
U.S.\$53.95 net.**

This is an excellent publication, dealing with a subject that is currently occupying the minds of very many clinical oncologists.

Chemotherapy has passed through several phases, notably those of the single agent and, later, of the proliferation of ever more exotic combinations for the treatment of advanced malignancy. Adjuvant chemotherapy is the phase of the moment. It is likely (though even this is being questioned) that chemotherapy is most effective when there is a small body-burden of tumour (*i.e.* micro-metastases) so it is very reasonable to offer adjuvant treatment to high-risk patients in this category. This book contains many papers often of a very high standard, dealing with clinical applications and results, but also

presenting the theoretical and experimental bases for such work. Apart from the general introductory and concluding papers, the contributions are arranged under the following headings: Breast Cancer; Lung Cancer; Gastro-intestinal Cancer; Genito-urinary Cancer; Paediatric Cancer; Sarcoma and Melanoma; Cancers of the Head and Neck, Thyroid and Brain; and Lymphoma. Most attention is given to cytotoxic drugs, but generous coverage is also given to immunotherapy. It would be invidious to select individual names from the extensive panel of distinguished contributors.

One could summarize by saying that there is abounding enthusiasm supported by sound experimental work and tempered by a sane appreciation of the associated risks to the patients. An eloquent plea is made for the more extensive use of controlled trials.

The editors deserve praise for publishing their text within 4 months of the conference in Tucson, Arizona. Occasional turgidities and typing errors are readily forgiven.

All clinical oncologists will gain from reading this book.

I. D. H. TODD