Book Reviews

Successes, Failures and Hopes in Cancer Chemotherapy. Proceedings of International Symposium May 1978 (Royal Society Medicine) (1979) London: Medico Pharmaceutical Forum. 138 pp.

The topics of this Symposium cover several aspects of cancer chemotherapy, including management, drug resistance, chemical pharmacology and new aspects of cancer therapy. Each paper is followed by discussion elaborating the points of the paper.

I do not feel that this particular form of publication is useful to those working in the field of oncology. Active members are familiar with the topics under discussion, and the book itself would not appeal to other readers.

P. WILKINSON

Clinical Cancer Medicine: Treatment Tactics. J. L. LOKICH (1980). Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd. 422 pp. £19.95 net.

This book describes the diagnosis and management of patients with malignant disease. It is divided into six sections: (1) Oncologic emergencies; (2) Oncologic complications related to organ systems; (3) Special problems in cancer management; (4) Systemic complications of cancer, and (5) Rare and uncommon manifestations of cancer.

The book has been edited so that it is uniform throughout. Each chapter is divided into separate parts, the text is very easy to read and the information easily assimilated. It is also enhanced by appropriate case histories, and interspersed within each chapter, in heavy type, are the most important items of information.

I have reviewed a number of books relating to this particular topic, and so far this is far and away the most attractive in both its format, clarity and ease with which facts can

be assimilated. For this reason, it should have wide appeal not only to clinical oncologists but to people in other disciplines who wish to have a comprehensive knowledge of cancer medicines. Not only should it be contained in all medical libraries but I can strongly recommend individual purchase of this book, and the purchase price of £20 should encourage libraries to purchase a copy for their readers.

P. WILKINSON

Recent Results in Cancer Research: Thyroid Cancer. Ed. W. DUNCAN. (1980) Berlin: Springer Verlag. 142 pp. 60D.M./£14.00 net.

The papers contained in this book are based on a symposium held in January 1979. All the contributors are from U.K. centres. The epidemiology, aetiology, pathology and immunological aspects of thyroid cancer are reviewed. The current role of surgery, radiotherapy and medical management of patients with thyroid cancer and the contribution of tumour markers, nuclear medicine and radiology in the investigation and follow-up of such patients are discussed in individual papers.

One major problem is the paucity of changes in the management of thyroid cancer in recent years, with the possible exception of the serum thyroglobulin estimation for detection of residual tumour. Nevertheless the overall standard of the reviews is good, though this reviewer was irritated by the bald suggestion in the last chapter that one successful cancer cure by thyroidectomy justified 50 thyroidectomies for benign lesions.

This book can be recommended to non-specialists in the field who only see an occasional patient with thyroid cancer and would like to know more about the disease.

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