causes and effects. These are also discussed in relation to abnormal phenotypes, survival and the incidence of spontaneous abortions.

Robertsonian translocations are provided with a chapter of their own, since in man they are the most common structurally abnormal chromosome and are believed to play an important role in plant and animal evolution. The significance of chromosomes in development of cancer is also presented in a concise chapter with specific abnormalities discussed, for example, the association of the Philadelphia chromosome in Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia.

The book concludes with a brief review of gene mapping. The recent spectacular developments in this rapidly advancing field make this chapter already out of date, but the text provides satisfactory insight into the technology used. I would thoroughly recommend "Human Chromosomes" as a suitable book for use as a good general reference text for a background course in human cytogenetics.

C. HARRISON

Leukaemia. N. L. WARNER & D. METCALF (1982). Geneva: UICC. 232 pp. \$22.00 net.

The book is a useful summary of recent advances in basic research into leukaemia, covering as it does developments in haemopoiesis, chromosome studies, classification, aetiology and behaviour of the leukaemic cell. The text is easily readable, and should appeal to people interested in leukaemia from a wide variety of aspects. The detractions include typographical errors, occasional errors in references and the (infrequent) use of two current sets of nomenclature for marrow progenitor cells interchangeably. However, these are only minor points in a book which should be extremely useful to many.

C. HAWORTH

Gastrointestinal Cancer 1. Eds. JEROME J. DECOSSE & PAUL SHERLOCK (1981). Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff. 452 pp. \$75.00 net.

This book is of unusually high quality. The uniform standard achieved in the series of

15 individual contributions drawn from all over the world reflects great credit on the editors as well as the individual authors.

The book deals with clinical problems and will be of interest to all physicians and surgeons who deal with gastrointestinal cancer. The main topics covered in the articles are oesophago-gastric and large-bowel cancer. In addition, there are interesting contributions on gut lymphomas, endocrine-active tumours of the gut and liver-cell cancer. All of the contributions are authoritative and are augmented by a good review of the current literature. I found the articles on oesophageal carcinoma from Iran, and liver cell cancer from China particularly interesting.

The presentation throughout the book is clear and consistent, which makes it easy to read and comprehend. This is a book which I would recommend all clinicians interested in gastrointestinal tract cancer to read.

P. F. SCHOFIELD

Endocrine Relationships in Breast Cancer. Ed. BASIL A. STOLL (1982). London: William Heinemann. 349 pp. £12.50 net.

This excellent book should be read by everyone involved in the treatment of and research into breast cancer; it might encourage people to lift their heads from their sometimes narrow path of interest and consider some of the many other factors that affect this terrible disease. Volume 5 of Basil Stoll's book is concerned only with the endocrine aspects of breast cancer, contributors have linked clinical and scientific interests; thus contributing to the appeal of the book. The early chapters are concerned with factors which may be involved in the incidence and spread of this cancer such as hormone profiles, oral contraceptives, reproductive factors and prostaglandins.

Later Hahnel reviews the prognostic value of oestrogen receptors. There have been conflicting reports in the literature, probably due to the small number of patients in each study, but collected here are results on over 2000 patients. Most of the studies found the presence of oestrogen receptors associated with a longer disease-free interval, but in 25% of the total no statistical evaluation of significance was made. The author concludes

by pointing out that controlled prospective studies are now needed to rank receptors with other factors, before arriving at a predictive index to identify high-risk patients needing adjuvant therapy.

The second part of the book is devoted to the application of endocrine relationships to therapy; modern ideas on how changes in

the hormone environment affect the course of the disease are discussed. In the final chapter Stoll reviews the role of neuroendocrine and psychoendocrine influences on breast cancer and he emphasizes the need to minimize the stress to the patient during treatment.

D. M. BARNES