

LEUKAEMIA

Etiology and Treatment of Leukemia. Proceedings of the First Louisiana Cancer Conference. Edited by Walter J. Burdette, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 167. 14 figures. South African price 34s. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1958.

This book contains some of the proceedings of the First Louisiana Cancer Conference. The exact date of the Conference is not given. There are half a dozen papers by active research workers on the aetiology and diagnosis of leukaemia and as many on the treatment of the disease.

Of chief interest in the concept of the aetiology is the work of Gross and Woolley dealing with the possible place of viruses in the production of leukaemia. There seems little doubt that certain varieties of animal leukaemia may be so caused, but it is still a long way from mice to men. As regards therapy, there is little new despite the great efforts at present under way. The drugs used are discussed and the indications for them enumerated. The contribution by Till from the Chester Beatty Research Institute on their work on the use of chlorambucil and bisulphan demonstrates Anglo-American cooperation in a pleasing way. The record too of the discussions which followed the papers adds greatly to the value of this book. There is surprisingly very little on the possibility of transplantation of marrow after the destruction of the malignant process by radiation or other means. Nor is there as yet any sign of a major 'break through' in the efforts to cure this disease. The best that can at present be said is that some amelioration is possible, the average duration of survival has been increased, and some of the patients are more comfortable.

The book is nicely produced and reasonably priced. It is a pity that the bibliography is not presented in alphabetical order; it would have provided a useful summary of current medical research in this field. This volume succeeds nevertheless in being an 'arrested instant' in the progress to what we all sincerely desire—a cure for this dreadful disease.

C.M.

MODERN TRENDS IN PAEDIATRICS

Modern Trends in Paediatrics. 2nd series. Edited by A. Holzel, M.D., D.C.H. and J. P. M. Tizard, M.A., B.M., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. Pp. xxiii+372+(13). 46 figures. 78s. 9d. + 1s. 9d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1958.

This is the second in the series of *Modern Trends in Paediatrics* and is intended as a companion volume to the first, published

in 1951. There are 23 contributors, the majority from various British medical schools, although there is a distinguished minority of authors from the USA and Europe as far afield as Moscow. This well-groomed publication belongs neither to the text-book nor the 'Recent Advances' or 'Year Book' categories, but comprises a series of discussions on selected paediatric problems or on topics which the authors (not all of whom are paediatricians) consider to have a direct bearing on modern paediatric practice. In the first place each subject is dealt with factually in the light of recent research and a comprehensive bibliography is included at the end of every chapter. Thereafter the author expresses his own views on future trends and developments which would be most likely, in his opinion, to shed further light on the particular subject discussed. This forecast of the future is a particularly interesting aspect of the work, since it must stimulate thought in the reader—thought which may readily be translated into action.

This is a book which is, perhaps, primarily for the specialist, but the general practitioner with a leaning towards paediatrics will find much to interest him.

H.L.W.

PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH

Principles of Research in Biology and Medicine. By Dwight J. Ingle, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Pp. ix+123. 30s. net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1958.

One is prejudiced from the start in favour of a book on the philosophy of science which quotes freely from such a practical philosopher as Lewis Carroll. Although Professor Ingle lacks some of the clarity of expression of his distinguished predecessor the contents of his book make it well worth reading. It is appropriate that it should be published at a time when many scientists, unsatisfied with the mere cataloguing of facts, are speculating on the nature and purpose of science itself.

Professor Ingle sets out to provide general concepts of the aims, methods, and limitations of science, with particular reference to biological research and to the uses and limitations of statistics. He explores many common fallacies, which the scientist cannot afford to ignore, and he gives detailed advice to scientists of all degrees on the organization and conduct of their work. The logic of the text is sound although many of the postulates are, probably intentionally, controversial. Much concentrated argument is condensed into small space and the reader may find it necessary to read the book more than once in order to derive the maximum benefit from it.

Probably the greatest value of this book is that it expresses in words a number of general ideas fundamental to science, which

individual scientists may never have attempted to define. The book can be read with profit, though not with ease, by anyone engaged in biological research.

A.W.S.

DERMATOLOGY

Dermatologie und Venerologie—einschliesslich Berufskrankheiten, dermatologischer Kosmetik und Andrologie. In 5 Bänden. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. H. A. Gottron und Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. W. Schönfeld. *Band II. Teil 1. Physikalische Behandlung—Dermatologische Kosmetik—Krankheiten noch unbekannter Herkunft nach ihrer Morphologie I*—Bearbeitet von zahlreichen namhaften Fachgelehrten. xvi+388 Seiten. 388 teils farbige Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 173.00. Subskriptionspreis DM 138.40. *Band II. Teil 2. Krankheiten noch unbekannter Herkunft nach Ihrer Morphologie II—Krankheiten mit bekannten Erregern*. xvi+670 Seiten. 277 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 154.00. Subskriptionspreis DM 123.20. Der Subskriptionspreis für das Gesamtwerk gilt bis zum Erscheinen des letzten Bandes. Jeder Band ist einzeln zum Ladenpreis käuflich. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1958.

In the old days the chief reference work in German in the field of dermatology was the mammoth *Handbuch der Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten* edited by Professor Jadassohn. The firm of Georg Thieme of Stuttgart has taken on the task of carrying on this tradition of vast anthologies, and this is the first published volume, Volume 2, of the final 5 volumes planned. It consists of 2 parts, each a hefty text-book of several hundred pages.

Part 1 deals with the treatment of skin diseases with physical

modalities—X-rays, radio-active substances, heat, ultraviolet light, ultrasonic vibration and climatic therapy. Each special therapeutic aid is considered by a specialist in the field. On the whole a conservatively cautious attitude is adopted. The articles are illustrated by graphs and mathematical formulae. The dangers inherent in any form of ionizing irradiation are adequately stressed.

Part 1 also deals extensively with dermatologic cosmetics and with skin sensitization caused by many of them. The formulae of the most treasured perfumes, body-deodorants, depilatories and other beauty aids are laid bare ('Chypre Orientale' consists of 25 ingredients). Finally, in part 1, there are several excellent chapters on numerous skin diseases of still undetermined aetiology—psoriasis, lupus erythematosus, the erythrodermias, dermatomyositis, the pemphigus group, and many more.

Part 2 continues with diseases of unknown origin—lichen ruber, planus and nitidus, the haemorrhagic diatheses, and sclerodermia and its variations—and then a very full and well-written section on skin disease of known aetiology—those due to the common parasites, the mycotic diseases, and the inflammatory conditions caused by micro-organisms and viruses. There is also a chapter on sarcoidosis, in which the various theories of the underlying causation are presented with laudable objectivity.

Thieme's familiar light-blue dust-jacket conceals a very handsome binding and the printing, paper and illustrations are of a high standard. There are voluminous references.

The complete work will surely embody a vast accumulation of dermatologic knowledge. Its happy possessor may well approach his patients with a confident air only, perhaps, to feel somewhat helpless when confronted by a case of chronic eczema!

C.K.O'M.