

will frequently entice one to fuller reading with worth-while results.

There is no doubt that a large number of drugs inimical to, or destructive of, cancer cells are now known. A search goes on for those with the most specific action and least damaging side-effects. Those at present available are clearly listed and their value shown. Treatment by cytotoxic drugs can be properly undertaken only with laboratory help, for these drugs all damage the haemopoietic system to some extent. If no such help is available, there is one drug which could be given with success and safety, using the white cell count as a guide to dosage. This is cyclophosphamide, for it lowers the white cell count before affecting the platelets or red cells. The treatment of hormone-dependent cancers is well described. Though the mechanisms are by no means fully understood, treatment can be very effective, especially in cancers of the prostate and breast.

Research into cancer chemotherapy has made indirect contributions to the study of other biochemical problems such as growth, immune reactions, protein synthesis, chromosome analyses and teratology.

The book appears to be a private venture and is well produced. This reviewer noted only one spelling error.

**Essentials of Fluid Balance.** Third edition. D. A. K. BLACK, M.D., F.R.C.P.  
Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964. Pp. xii+164.  
Price 25s.

The third edition of this beautifully written little book offers far more than its modest title suggests. The general practitioner will find within its pages a lucid general account of water, sodium and potassium which will illuminate for him some of the darker corners of this admittedly difficult subject. Not only does Professor Black explain with clarity and style the theoretical aspects of fluid and electrolyte balance, he also relates the chemical changes to clinical syndromes.

He describes the chemical imbalance in oedema, diabetic ketosis, respiratory failure, gastro-enteritis and many other commonly encountered clinical conditions, and in a new chapter called 'Hydrion' he explains admirably the latest nomenclature in this complicated field and emphasizes the importance of hydrogen ion concentration in understanding acidosis and alkalosis.

Practical advice is given on laboratory investigations and treatment and a very adequate list of references is provided for those readers who are stimulated by this excellent little book to look further into this fascinating subject.

**May's Manual of the Diseases of the Eye for Students and Practitioners.**  
23rd edition. Edited by JAMES H. ALLEN, M.D. Baltimore, U.S.A.  
The Williams and Wilkins Co. 1965. Pp. ix+382. Price £3 14s. 0d.

This is a "manual for students and general practitioners". The fact of it being the 23rd edition tells of its success. It is written with conspicuous clarity in concise English and is easy to read and understand.

Even the chapters on Optics and Refraction are easily comprehended, for the simple style of writing takes the reader from the first principles to the more complex by effortless steps.

Any adverse criticism is minor. Words which are intended to carry emphasis are written in italics. This is overdone to such an extent that after a short while one ceases to notice them. Treatment of eye disorders is excellent, but where eye disorders are part of a general condition, diagnosis and treatment of this are also suggested. Unfortunately some of this is out of date; e.g. the giving of calcium to increase the coagulability of the blood; the use of strychnine in diphtheritic paralysis of the ocular nerves; thinning of the eyebrows as a sign of hyperthyroidism. These would be better subjects for a textbook of medicine.

From the general practitioner's point of view, it is a pity that there is no mention of hot spoon-bathing, that most useful method of applying heat; nor is there mention of rubbing of the lids as the chief cause of styes.

A few misprints were noted. Under Fig. 17-3 for "direct" read "indirect" and similarly under Fig. 17-6. On p. 250, line 6, for "S" read "E". This is an excellent book.

**Correlative Neuroanatomy and Functional Neurology.** Twelfth edition. J. G. CHUSID and J. J. McDONALD. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964. Pp. x+409. Price 45s.

The authors state in their preface that their primary objective has been to present simply and clearly some of the structural and functional features of the nervous system related to problems in clinical neurology.

That they have achieved their objective as far as is possible there is little doubt, but whether it is possible to present these matters simply is open to some question. A study of this book fills one with admiration for the vast amount of work time and trouble that has been taken in its production. It is divided into four sections, viz.: 1. Central nervous system. 2. Peripheral nerves and autonomic system. 3. Principles of neurodiagnosis. 4. Central nervous system disorders.

Perhaps the best description of the volume is as an encyclopaedia of neurological conditions and it forms a useful reference for those who are like the general practitioner not deeply involved in the neurological world.

The authors themselves suggest that it will serve best if used in conjunction with standard neurological texts and literature and, while one has no doubt that this is so for the aspiring neurologists the volume itself forms an adequate source of knowledge for the family doctor.

There is a large number of clear diagrams, many tables and heavy printing of anatomical titles and names of diseases. There is a useful index of selected reference textbooks. It seems a pity that this work is issued as a paperback and not covered in the standard that it merits.