

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.