

consecutive occasions by 5-day courses of intravenously administered cytosine arabinoside 100 mg/day.

This patient was followed by us for a further period of 22 months. During that time, while the haematological picture remained unchanged, he suffered from eleven episodes of excruciating bone pain, always responsive to the same treatment. Repeated skeletal x-rays and bone scans showed no osteolytic lesions. In December 1977 a fatal blastic crisis occurred. Permission for necropsy was

not granted.

These data provide further evidence of the beneficial effect of cytosine arabinoside in the symptomatic treatment of patients with this condition.

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Book reviews

Lupus Erythematosus. A Review of the Current Status of Discoid and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and their Variants. 2nd revised edition. Edited by Edmund L. Dubois. (Pp. xv + 798; illustrated + tables. US \$39.50.) University of Southern California Press: Los Angeles. 1976.

This revised edition makes its appearance only 2 years after the printing of the second edition. The editor in his preface explains that the decision to revise the text rather than merely reprinting was taken so that the book could be updated by integrating more than 100 key references representing significant advances or new review articles which had been published up to July 1976. This has been achieved by inserting appropriate sentences or paragraphs in the supplementary chapters which were added for the second edition. The overall layout of book, in terms of text, tables, and illustrations has not therefore significantly altered.

This book remains a *tour de force*; all aspects of SLE are dealt with, covering its history, laboratory animal models, pathology, current immunological status, and clinical aspects of the disease. Each chapter has been written by acknowledged experts within this field and the total list of references exceeds 3000. Certain statements, such as the LE cell test is the mainstay for the diagnosis of SLE, would not now be accepted by all rheumatologists, and some imbalance has occurred by retaining unaltered the original chapters of the 1965 edition, such as that on biological false-positive tests for syphilis, particularly as the Wassermann reaction is now rarely used in routine serological testing.

The book would become more readable if the original chapters and the supplementary chapters added for the second edition were integrated, but it remains an essential reference work for any clinician or laboratory worker interested in this field. Those already possessing the 1974 second edition need not feel compelled to purchase the revised version because of the relatively minor additions, but the editor must be congratulated for attempting to keep this textbook as up to date as possible.

IAN GRIFFITHS

Connective Tissue Diseases. By Graham R. V. Hughes. (Pp. 266; illustrated + tables. £9.00, paperback.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1977.

This fairly small volume provides a concise and highly readable account of this complex group of diseases. It combines a clear and comprehensive review of their clinical manifestations with discussion of possible pathogenetic mechanisms. Systemic lupus erythematosus, as might be expected, receives the greatest attention in view of the clinical diversity of this condition, the widespread immunological abnormalities, and the findings in animal models. The possibility of a viral aetiology and the propensity of patients with inherited complement deficiencies to develop systemic lupus erythematosus are both important discussion points. A similar format covering epidemiology, pathology, and clinical findings is used in most subsequent sections to deal with the

spectrum of diseases from rheumatoid arthritis and polymyositis to the various vasculitides. The author points out that a detailed description of rheumatoid arthritis is beyond the scope of this volume. The text is complemented by the liberal use of tables to summarise the main points of discussion. Short case histories have been included frequently and in general these are very effective in illustrating clinical problems of diagnosis or management.

This book must be considered as essential reading for postgraduate students studying for higher medical degrees. However, the last two sections, which provide a brief outline of immune complex disease and immunological tests in the rheumatic diseases, might for such readers be better placed as introductory chapters, since they are closely connected with the discussion of aetiological factors. There are a number of minor printing errors, particularly in the first half of the book, but the comprehensive lists of up-to-date references at the end of each chapter further recommends this text as an important reference for all working in the field of the rheumatic diseases.

J. D. PERRY

Arthritis: a Quarter Century of Research. Edited by Eng M. Tan and Morris Koff. (Pp. 252; illustrated + tables. US \$20.00.) Arthritis Foundation: Atlanta, Georgia. 1977.

This book comprises a collection of 31 papers given at a conference commemorating the 25th anniversary of the