

variety. As in other aspects of life, this process is not necessarily to be deplored: our efforts are better devoted to ensuring that what is imported is of the best. This book is an excellent example of the beneficial effects of Americanization at work in important areas of psychology.

P. L. BROADHURST

## CHILDHOOD MALIGNANCY

### Tumours in Children

Edited by H. B. Marsden and J. K. Steward. (Recent Results in Cancer Research, Vol. 13.) Pp. xvi+347. (Springer-Verlag: Berlin and New York, 1968.) 72 DM; \$18.

THIS is a rather surprising book to find in a series of volumes devoted to recent results in cancer research. It is largely a review of nearly one thousand children with tumours entered into the Manchester University Children's Tumour Registry in a ten year period from 1953 to 1963. This book sets out to describe the clinical and pathological features of tumours seen in children and to discuss their treatment. Very little of the content could reasonably be described as recent cancer research. The major part of the book results from collaboration between a group of workers in Manchester representing the various disciplines involved in paediatric oncology. There are, in addition, four contributions from writers in other centres each with particular experience.

The initial chapter covers in general terms the problem of childhood malignancy in Britain. The editors make a strong plea for centralizing the management of these patients in order to provide wider experience and research opportunities. Professor Davies from Albany then describes some regional variations in the incidence of childhood cancer. He stresses his own finding of the infrequency of leukaemia in East Africa, which is at variance with a recent survey in Kampala by Vannier. The remaining chapters are devoted to a more detailed discussion of each of the main groups of tumours seen in children.

The late Dr Keidan gives an excellent review of leukaemia in which he describes the continuing advances in the chemotherapy of this disease. Unfortunately he was unable to include any account of the potential role of L-asparaginase. Mr Stallard writes of his unrivalled experience of retinoblastomas, and particularly of the use of radioactive applicators in their treatment. Dr N. J. Brown gives an authoritative account of testicular tumours in children.

This book, as the editors admit, is rather uneven. For example, there is a detailed description of the chemical pathology of sympathetic nervous system tumours, but very little about their treatment. It is pointed out that Bodian's results using massive doses of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> have never been repeated, but otherwise chemotherapy is dismissed in four lines.

Considering that in Britain and North America malignant disease is the second commonest cause of death in children over one year old, very few books on the subject have been published. This volume attempts to fill part of this gap and to a large extent succeeds. The use of the Manchester University Children's Tumour Registry gives valuable information on the incidence of different tumours; their clinical features are well described, and the pathological descriptions are supported by some beautifully reproduced photomicrographs. If the sections on treatment are disappointing, this largely reflects our present state of knowledge. There are a number of useful references included both in the text and listed at the end of each chapter. This book should be read by all interested in the problems of these unfortunate children.

JOHN MARTIN

## MAMMALIAN MALFORMATIONS

### Teratology of the Central Nervous System

Induced and Spontaneous Malformations of Laboratory, Agricultural, and Domestic Mammals. By Harold Kalter. Pp. xiv+483. (University of Chicago Press: Chicago and London, August 1968.) \$17.50; 157s.

THE value of this volume to the wide range of workers now interested in the field of mammalian teratology is greatly increased by the fact that almost a quarter of it is taken up by full and accurate references to previous work in the field. It is a worthy product of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation of Cincinnati from which so many illuminating papers have come in the past twenty years. Dr Kalter writes well, concisely and with a certain salty humour, which makes reading his book a pleasure even to one who is very familiar with the factual material contained therein.

The first and second parts of this volume could well have been separate monographs. The first part is concerned with the development of the techniques by means of which it is now possible to produce malformations in laboratory animals. The second part deals with spontaneously occurring malformations as these have been reported in non-human species. With the doyen of experimental mammalian teratology, Josef Warkany, Kalter covered much of the ground of Part I of the present volume in an excellent review, "Experimental Production of Congenital Malformations in Mammals by Metabolic Procedures", published in *Physiological Reviews* in 1959. The extraordinary advance in information relating to teratology, together with the minute increase in our present knowledge of teratogenic mechanisms, is well illustrated by a comparison of the present work with the paper published in 1959. Although, not unnaturally, the thalidomide disaster has led to the production of a vast amount of literature on mammalian teratology, nowhere is it dealt with in a more logical fashion than in the first part of the book under review. This section, which consists of some 184 pages (not including the most valuable set of references), will be, as the cover states, a useful reference for teratologists, pharmacologists, physiologists, anatomists, embryologists and experimental pathologists.

The second part, which deals with the malformations which naturally occur in laboratory and domestic animals *inter alia*, is, through no fault of the author, a great deal more scrappy in coverage than the first part. When he deals with malformations of the mouse, where the literature is comparatively plentiful, the author handles his subject with all the dexterity shown in the first part. As far as most mammals are concerned, the fact simply is that we lack the basic information at present to provide any very satisfactory discourse on their malformations. For this reason, the two parts of this most useful volume make very poor bedfellows.

One feature which I found rather misleading resides in the title of the book, *Teratology of the Central Nervous System*. There are, in fact, in the first part of the book, many references to other deformities such as cleft palate, cardiovascular malformations and defects of the external ears. Somewhat surprisingly, when the author comes to deal with thalidomide, he restricts himself severely to the central nervous system defects seen experimentally with this drug. One gets the impression that he has found the title of his book something of a restriction to his able and facile pen. The fact that malformations of the central nervous system are common and severe in incidence in all species, and among the most frequent types of deformity induced by teratogens, ought not perhaps to blind us to the point that agents causing congenital malformations are commonly toxic to the development of more than one system of the body. Thalidomide, for example, follows this rule and the pro-