agreed on the importance of early treatment. The reader has to make up his mind which method of treatment will appeal to him/her and as there is an enormous diversity between children with this condition it is difficult to ascertain the advantage of one form of treatment over another.

The book is interesting and provides an insight into the possibilities of treatment for these children.

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Manual of Hematology, Claude Sultan, Michèle Gouault-Heilmann and Michèle Imbert. Pp. xii + 380, illustrated. John Wiley, New York, Chichester, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1985. £28.85.

In the preface, Dr Robert Pierre, who translated the book from the original French, states 'that the book is designed to provide a concise and clear overview of haematology emphasizing the pathophysiology of haematological disorders and aimed at the medical student and resident'. I believe it achieves these aims.

The book is divided into six sections, each is sub-divided similarly by short, rather terse notes on each subject. The style does not lend itself to discussion of debatable issues but presents on the whole what is the currently prevalent opinion. The accompanying line diagrams and tables are excellent. There are however no references to guide the inquisitive reader, which I think is a pity. The first two sections are on the physiology and pathology of general haematology dealing with all the main malignant and non-malignant conditions including the lymphomas. The next two sections are on the physiology and pathology of haemostasis. Why haemostasis is separated in this way from all the other fascinating subsections of haematology, I fail to understand, as only immuno-haematology, the subject of section 5, is so honoured.

Following this section is a series of brief appendices summarising the main morphological abnormalities in the blood and bone marrow. Clearly, without figures their value is limited but the descriptions are good. Section 6 will undoubtedly prove the most popular with students as it contains a series of true and false questions and case histories with questions. Ideal practice for the exams and, for the teachers the answers are provided!

In summary, a useful volume but at £28.85 represents poor value for money to the impecunious student or resident.

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Mathematical Methods in Medicine. Part I: Statistical and Analytical Techniques, edited by D. Ingram and R.F. Bloch. Handbook of Applicable Mathematics Series. Guidebook 3. P. xvii + 543, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore. 1984. £29.95.

This review is of a single volume in a 12 volume work called the *Handbook of Applicable Mathematics*. The editors intend this and a companion volume as 'stepping stones' between the six core mathematical volumes and the study of medicine. The book is a collection of chapters by various authors. Almost half the book is on statistical methods, with two chapters on methods used in clinical and laboratory research by S. Evans and J.E.H. Shaw, a good chapter on the analysis of clinical decision-making by A. Skene, and a considerably weaker chapter on routine laboratory methods by G.S. Challoner. This part of the book could act as a statistical text. It has worked examples of the more elementary techniques; it also covers a large range of statistical methods by mentioning where they might be useful and providing references. A chapter on population genetics by N.R. Mendell and F.E. Ward provides many formulae, a glossary and frequent reference to the book by Cavalli-Sforza and Bodmer (presumably being used as its standby text).

The more overtly mathematical chapters are on signal processing by J.H. Van Bommel and pharmacokinetics and protein binding by M. Sheriff & R. Felming. They both have difficulty in finding a mathematical level, sometimes assuming knowledge at a much higher level than their explanation and seem to lose the simple approach in the complexity of their algebraic manipulation. The chapters on tracer techniques in nuclear medicine by R. Lawson and control of drug administration by D. Linkens include many topics already covered in early chapters, such as curve fitting, compartment analysis and combination of errors. They seem to match the statistical chapters by simplifying the mathematics, though the chapter on tracer techniques is not so heavily referenced and that on drug administration uses a lot of matrix algebra. The book ends strangely with a chapter by the editors on a graphical approach to linear systems.

Frequent reference to the six core volumes make it hard to consider the book on its own; however, the better chapters give references to alternative sources. A vast number of topics are covered with (usually) up-to-date references to topics. There must be over 600 references and the book would serve as a dictionary with references – unfortunately the index is not as comprehensive as it should be for this purpose. The book can only provide a brief introduction to various topics and the readers are then left to find their own way. The multi-author approach, though covering a wide range of experience, shows up the essential ambiguity of mathematical notation. A familiarity with mathematical notation would definitely be needed.

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