

the possibility of effective treatment of cerebral palsied children with extreme pessimism' and recalls the pioneer workers in this field of not so long ago in this country and America. Apart from the sociological interest of current trends in the Soviet Union towards the handicapped child what does this book add to our way of thinking and understanding the problems of cerebral palsy? Their appeal for the management of the child as a whole person rather than the treatment of the affected separate part of the body will find warm support here. But most outstanding and impressive is their report of the use of Galanthamine, an alkaloid with powerful anti-cholinesterase properties, at present only obtainable from Bulgaria! It followed the use of Neostigmine in a variety of different neurological disorders. They ascribe its effect to its 'de-inhibitory effects on nervous tissue' and after its successful use in myasthenia gravis, myopathy and syringomyelia they used it on children with cerebral palsy. However sceptical this book may make the reader feel it is certainly very evocative and thought provoking. It is well printed on good paper and with good layout. Allowing for the unavoidable effects of an otherwise very readable translation and allowing for all the fundamental basic differences in outlook and orientation the publishers are to be commended for breaking down barriers by publishing this book. A month in the Soviet Union experiencing at first hand their paediatric services enabled me to read this book with a patronizing tolerance.

Biotherapy of Malignant Tumours

N. G. KLYUYEVA and G. I. ROSKIN. Translated from the Russian by J. J. Oliver and edited by W. J. P. Neish. Pp. iv + 314, illustrated. Oxford, London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1963. 80s.

This book, translated from the Russian, is a fairly readable and interesting account of original work done during the last 25 years by the authors at Moscow University. The work is concerned almost entirely with the investigation into the properties of a substance 'Cruzin' or 'Trypanosa' obtained from cultures of *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the protozoon responsible for Chaga's disease.

Only the first and relatively short part of the book deals with the general problem of cancer 'biotherapy'. However, it contains a brief history and some interesting references to the use of various substances derived from living organisms, which have been used against cancer. This began in 1804 with Coley's fluids or toxins, and proceeds up to the present via azaserine and the actinomycins.

The main part is concerned with the clinical effects of the trypanosome derived substance on human cancer—mainly lip and breast. The method of production is not given but it is administered intramuscularly every day for 2-3 months or even longer, depending on the response. The case histories are given in full only for those patients surviving recurrence-free at five years: 79 black and white photographs accompany the case histories but unfortunately many of these are of rather poor quality. Precise statistics of the treated cases are not provided, but the results are obviously inferior to orthodox therapy by surgery and radiotherapy. Nevertheless, the evidence in this book shows that regression of tumours can occur with this preparation. The most remarkable clinical property of this agent compared with other cancer chemotherapeutic agents is its apparent harmlessness to normal tissues. Blood counts quoted show no change during a course of injections. Despite this observation there seemed to be an optimum dose

(although this varies with each patient) above which further benefit was not observed.

Later chapters on serial histology and animal work suggest that this substance is selectively taken up by tumour cells and that it acts by making malignant cells less virulent so that they can be dealt with by body defence mechanisms. There are numerous plates of degenerating malignant cells and infiltrating macrophages.

In clinical practice we gain little from this book which will help us to treat cancer more effectively, but it is worth reading for the discussions and references. We shall have to await further work, in particular controlled trials, before we can finally assess the place of the trypanosome preparation in cancer therapy.

An Atlas of Electrocardiography

HUGO ROESLER, M.D., F.A.C.P. and EVAN FLETCHER, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. vii + 700, illustrated. Bristol: John Wright. 1963. £7. 7s.

This new book on electrocardiography consists of tracings from 400 patients, arranged as far as possible under diagnoses, and extensively annotated. The authors believe (and none will contradict them) that knowledge of clinical electrocardiography can only be acquired 'by the critical analysis of a large number of tracings correlated with clinical and pathological data', and they consider the book will be of most value to those already familiar with the elements of the subject. This then is not a textbook, but rather a collection of E.C.G.s illuminated by case histories. Each figure has its accompanying interpretation—a detailed description of the complexes in the various leads—followed by the E.C.G. diagnosis, clinical data and comments. Autopsy findings are given in a third of the cases. Though the section titles guide the reader to some extent, the absence of headings to each figure makes quick reference difficult and compels close study of tracing and text—perhaps the authors' intention. The analysis is very thorough and there are no short cuts for the reader, so that the study of even a few tracings demands considerable application. The section on ischaemic heart disease rightly forms a large portion of the book, and the correlation with autopsy findings is of great value here. There are instructive examples, among other topics, of ventricular hypertrophy, pericarditis, emphysema and the arrhythmias. The vectorial interpretation of tracings is freely employed—a commendable step in this country where 'pattern electrocardiography' still holds sway—and there are useful observations on the terminal vector changes in myocardial infarction. The tracings have been selected with care and are of good quality, though a number of them have been reduced too much in size for easy inspection. Apart from a short introductory paragraph at the head of each section there is no general exposition, and no references are given. The 'comment' accompanying each tracing is used to summarize the lesson and draw the necessary conclusions.

This work avowedly sets out to teach by weight of example rather than by extraction of principle. The authors are right in their belief that analysis of many tracings is the best way to master the subject. But it is a truism of medical practice that second-hand case histories are never as interesting as one's own (who is not prone to not skip them in the journals)—a fact which may diminish the appeal of this expensive book to readers with abundant clinical material of their own. For these the first search for guidance would normally be in one of the conventional textbooks of electrocardiography where fact and principle can be found, supported maybe by illustrations. The present work, consisting entirely of illustrations, does not lend itself to