

especially in the hospital laboratory, and the significance of enzyme heterogeneity and the need to assess tissue-specific forms of the enzyme to aid in diagnostic problems. This is of great value to the technologist but should be familiar to the clinical biochemist. The clinical biochemist, however, will find the text valuable, since the author reviews the theoretical significance in intermediary metabolism, the methods of assay, the necessary reagents and the technic of one or more selected procedures, and the clinical interpretation of alterations from normal limits of activity, and provides a good bibliography for each of 28 clinically important enzymes. In addition, the appendix contains an excellent compendium of buffers which can be utilized to study enzyme reactions of clinically significant systems.

Carl Alper

Palliative Care of the Cancer Patient. Robert C. Hickey (ed.). Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1967. 621 pp. \$23.90.

This book was designed "to place within one volume a compilation of documented experience and data on the palliative care of the advanced cancer patient." Only a mischievous reader (or reviewer) would hold one to the fulfillment of such an impossible goal in the space of slightly over six hundred pages.

There is a strong orientation to surgical means of cancer palliation which should come as no surprise, since fully two-thirds of the contributing authors are surgeons. Descriptions of some of these measures, of interest primarily to surgeons, are treated in detail. Over half the contents deal with quite specific management of neoplasms according to body regions. This necessarily leads to a degree of repetition, most evident in the chapters dealing with radiotherapy, and constitutes the most serious flaw in the final product.

The inevitable chapter on "statistics" in cancer is written in as painless a manner as possible by Dr. Hickey himself. He is appropriately conservative on future prospects in cancer palliation, which may make some chemotherapists fidget a bit. As a matter of fact, the comparatively small emphasis on chemotherapy elsewhere in the book might prompt a rebuttal from those circles.

The chapter by Carter on palliation of childhood cancer is superbly written. The emotional aspects of the cancer illness by Roberts is a succinct appraisal of a complex subject. This subject might have been given more space. The reader will be grateful, however, for being spared any lengthy platitudes on the nobility of care of patients with cancer.

The use of iron therapy to correct the anemia of cancer not due to blood loss and small doses of corticosteroids for appetite and mood stimulation, both suggested on one page, may raise an eyebrow or two, but these are minor faults in a volume that is pragmatic, thorough, and useful. The slick paper and numerous fine illustrations unfortunately may have put the price out of line for the product.

William E. Barry

Experimental Skin Carcinogenesis in Mice. Olav Hilmar Iversen and Arne Evensen. Boston: Norwegian Universities Press, 1962. 184 pp.

The carefully conducted studies of Iversen and Evensen comprising this monograph evoke several questions on the nature of cancer that have persisted in a state of suspended solution over a good many years. Though not explicitly presented so by the authors, some historically unresolved issues are still inescapable. The work, performed a decade ago, also provokes new theories on cell-control mechanisms causally involved in chemical carcinogenesis.

A main conclusion drawn is that carcinogenic hydrocarbons specifically induce enhanced oxidative metabolism, measured by reduction of tetrazolium to formazan, in association with diminished O₂ consumption, measured by the Warburg technic. On the basis of light microscopic evidence, the authors propose that the mechanism of this effect is via physically damaged mitochondria. The interpretation at this time is perhaps not important, for it is overshadowed by the specificity of the event and the direct implication that a predictive test for skin carcinogens exists.

Inhibition of DNA synthesis, measured autoradiographically by uptake of tritiated thymidine by epidermal cells, was found as an associated event and is possibly another specific effect of carcinogens.

The studies, performed on a strain of hairless mice known to develop skin carcinomas following application of carcinogens, are presented in full. The monograph is called to the attention of those not aware of the work and recalled to others as an invitation to reexamine evidence for concepts still in limbo.

Eugene J. Van Scott

The Ecology and Etiology of Human Disease. Kingsley M. Stevens. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C Thomas, 1967. 201 pp. \$7.50.

The development of unifying biologic concepts often provides basis for further investigation of biologic phenomena, but to serve such purpose, it must be something more than academic exercise. The present volume is devoted primarily to an exposition of the "free oxygen" dogma as a unifying biologic concept. It is unlikely that such concepts as "The chief biological function of the immunological system is to maintain the energy supply" will meet with much enthusiasm or stimulate much further research. Similarly, as delineated in the ensuing chapters, the role of "free oxygen" in the pathogenesis of a broad spectrum of human ills, including infectious disease and carcinoma, will not be received with wholehearted accord, especially among those bacteriologists and cell biologists who do not happen to be disciples of the Warburg theory.

The book affords substance for much interesting speculation but fails to provide convincing argument in favor of the basic principle which it seeks to develop.

George E. Foley

Cancer Research

The Journal of Cancer Research (1916–1930) | The American Journal of Cancer (1931–1940)

The Ecology and Etiology of Human Disease: Kingsley M. Stevens. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C Thomas, 1967. 201 pp. \$7.50.

George E. Foley

Cancer Res 1968;28:1461.

Updated version Access the most recent version of this article at:
<http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/28/7/1461.3.citation>

E-mail alerts [Sign up to receive free email-alerts](#) related to this article or journal.

Reprints and Subscriptions To order reprints of this article or to subscribe to the journal, contact the AACR Publications Department at pubs@aacr.org.

Permissions To request permission to re-use all or part of this article, use this link <http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/28/7/1461.3.citation>. Click on "Request Permissions" which will take you to the Copyright Clearance Center's (CCC) Rightslink site.