but the advocacy of 'intuitive nomenclature', which is particularly inappropriate in this context, is disappointing.

The remainder of the book is concerned with techniques that are largely research orientated. The penultimate chapter describes those involved in the study of meiosis in man and discusses their application, while the last chapter summarises techniques that have been widely used in gene mapping and as adjuncts to DNA technology but are rarely applied in the clinical cytogenetics laboratory, namely, in situ hybridisation, somatic cell fusion, and flow cytometry. The authors consider the latter to be the most promising automated system for detailed analysis of the human karyotype. Strangely, there is no mention anywhere of the computerised image analysis systems, which many would regard as having more potential.

In recent years there has been a profusion of cytogenetic techniques, most of which have now been included in this one volume. The uninitiated, however, would do well to reflect on the axiom that for most techniques there are as many protocols as there are laboratories and that modification is generally a necessity. Nevertheless, this volume is a timely, well presented, and useful publication. The experienced worker will, perhaps, only refer to it occasionally, but researchers, those in the early stages of their careers, and those studying for examinations will find it an unrivalled source of technical information and very good value for money.

SELWYN ROBERTS

Leukemia: Recent Advances in Biology and Treatment

Edited by R P Gale and D W Golde. (Pp 744, 14 figures + tables.) New York: Alan R Liss. 1985.

This book is one of the series of UCLA Symposia on molecular and cellular biology, and reports recent advances in the biology and treatment of leukaemia. Fifty original contributions and summaries of three workshops are grouped in chapters dealing with oncogenes and chromosomes, viruses, growth factors and receptors, stem cells, pathogenesis of leukaemia, pharmacology, and therapy. The rapid advances, especially in the first three fields, are comprehensively covered. While relevant to haematologists and oncologists as a source of basic information, they will be of more interest to cell and molecular biologists and other research workers. The last two chapters are more relevant to those dealing with the therapy of leukaemia and provide good reviews of current information.

In some chapters, a welcomed effort has been made to put such information in perspective with regard to the evaluation of present trends in treatment, and the better ways to go forward.

The style of presentation reflects the personal preferences of the authors, as is often seen in proceedings of symposia. Some contributions follow the format of original research papers, and a few give reviews of their subject matter. The print ready format may be hard on some eyes, but that should not deter potential readers interested in this fascinating field.

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