

Regarding “. . . an obvious unpleasant odor of decay, rather unexpected after so long an internment,” I reiterate my conviction that internships generally do indeed represent an excessive measure of confinement and such odors are not at all to be unexpected.

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ROUGH AND CREEPY GREEK

To the Editor: We were saddened to note that the editorial, “Disseminated Herpes-Simplex-Virus Infections” (March 19 issue) misprinted the proposed etymology for “herpes,” the Attic Greek word *έρπειν*. In the first place, the word begins with a rough breathing (´) instead of the smooth breathing (˘) used in the editorial. This is important because it is the rough breathing that serves as the letter “h” in the Attic Greek. (The form — “erpes” — sounded like something from My Fair Lady.)

In the second place, the infinitive of this verb, *έρπειν*, was printed with what looks like a terminal *upsilon* instead of the requisite *nu*. Having heard about “the Boston group” from our attending physicians with awe and reverence over the past year, we had felt assured that Boston was the one city in the New World with an adequate supply of knowledge of and typescript for Attic Greek. If indeed a dearth of the latter was responsible for the error, the letter “v” makes a good substitute.

Greek and Latin etymologies are a nice touch in any professional journal, but they are much nicer when they are correct.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Homeostatic Regulators: A Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme; and Julie Knight. 327 pp., illustrated. London: J. and A. Churchill, 1969. No price listed.

This book represents the proceedings of a symposium that was held in the first few months of 1969. It is now an established fact that invitations to symposia are based more on political than on scientific grounds. Invitees to symposia feel obliged to reciprocate, and very soon one has a spate of symposia in which the same people keep talking about the same experiments. The only things that change are the host and the town where the symposium is held, but the players and the music are always the same. Most of the participants are aware of this merry-go-round, but with Ovid's Medea we can say: “Video meliora proboque, deteriora sequor.” [“I see and approve of the better things; I follow the worse.”] The organizer of this symposium has tried to resolve the impasse by inviting a mixed population of speakers in which some names that clearly belong to “la fleur du gratin” have been mixed with “debutantes” that appear for the first time on the Grand Circuit of Symposia. I must say that the Old Masters come out much better than the aged debutantes. For instance, the papers by L. F. Lamerton, O. H. Iversen and Michael Stoker, to name a few, are little jewels in which one does not know whether to admire more their knowledge or the clarity of their thinking. (The paper by Francois Gros stands in splendid isolation in the center of gravity of the book without the slightest connection with the papers that precede or follow it.) On the contrary, some of the lesser

lights have taken advantage of their chance to participate in a symposium for publishing results that would not have been published in a critical journal. Others have indulged in platitudes or wild speculations, and one of the papers actually borders on witchcraft.

It is difficult to evaluate this book overall. Undoubtedly, young scientists will stand to learn a lot from the papers of the Old Masters: if nothing else, how one takes a large amount of information and molds it into a coherent form. As to the others' way-out papers, these may also appeal to a certain audience that always feels the need of being different and that, like Madame de Cambremer, believes that in intellectual matters, “on n'est jamais assez à gauche.”

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Recent Results in Cancer Research: Scientific basis of cancer chemotherapy. Edited by Georges Mathé. 96 pp., illustrated. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1969. \$7.00.

Although it does not provide the entire scientific basis for cancer chemotherapy that the title implies, this book gives the reader some background in the field from several distinguished European centers. The work presupposes no particular knowledge of investigative methods by the reader, and should be worthwhile reading for physicians and students with an interest in clinical oncology.

The methods of selection of anticancer agents, their mechanism of action and the factors influencing their effect on tumors are discussed in the first few chapters from the Chester Beatty Research Institute and are especially well written and instructive. Of the other chapters, that by Y. Kenis on dose schedules and modes of administration in man is particularly lucid and useful. Unlike the remainder of the book, the chapter by J. L. Amiel on chemotherapy and immune reactions is a report of specific research with little interpretation for the general reader. G. Mathé, in the final chapter, makes an enthusiastic plea for more aggressive exploitation of chemotherapy by using current biologic knowledge of the growth kinetics of cancer cells and the immune defenses of the host.

One may excuse a certain frequency of typographic errors in a book written in English, printed in Germany and edited in France.

DAVID W. ALLEN, M.D.

Hemostasis Manual. By Laurence A. Harker. 34 pp., illustrated. **Hematology Laboratory Manual.** By Robert S. Hillman, M.D. 78 pp., illustrated. **Red Cell Manual.** By Clement A. Finch, M.D. 52 pp., illustrated. Seattle: University of Washington, 1969. \$1.00 each.

These three hematology manuals possess certain attributes that make them highly commendable for use in teaching medical students and house officers. They present an abundant amount of accurate information in a highly condensed and easily read style and are quite inexpensive.

The Red Cell Manual fulfills its stated purpose, “to provide a logical clinical approach to anemia and polycythemia,” by considering first the normal physiology of the erythron and subsequently the pathophysiology. Both sections are extremely compressed, and no effort is expended on etiologic considerations. This tends to limit the usefulness of the manual as introductory material for the student in the first or second year, but enhances its value to those at the third-year level and beyond. Although the abnormalities of the erythron are skillfully and logically blended into the physiologic scheme the classification of anemias according to strict physiologic considerations does not (as yet) enjoy wide acceptance among the majority of practicing hematologists, who by and large employ the traditional classification.

The Hematology Laboratory Manual succinctly covers the currently available methods in laboratory diagnosis of ane-