

# Book Reviews

**Approaches to tumor chemotherapy.** (Ed. by F. R. M.) Washington, D. C.: American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1947. Pp. 442. (Illustrated.) \$6.50, members; \$7.75, nonmembers.

Since 1938, a series of annual conferences, each lasting a week, have been held at Gibson Island, Maryland, under the sponsorship of the Section on Chemistry of the AAAS. The week devoted to cancer research in 1945 was given over largely to a symposium on tumor chemotherapy, and through the enthusiasm and industry of the chairman of this conference, Dean Burk, all the papers devoted to this subject, together with papers on similar subjects in 1946 and a number of invited papers "designed to round out a fairly representative view of the present status of the field of tumor chemotherapy," have been gathered together and published in a single volume. Seventy different authors have contributed 41 papers. The discussions by many persons attending the conferences have been added in full.

The book opens with a most discouraging historical review of the field of tumor chemotherapy by William H. Woglom. The number of negative results in this field as described by Woglom is indeed legion. A section on "Special Methodology" follows. The third section, entitled "Nutritional Factors," contains, among other papers, a lengthy symposium by Richard Lewisohn and his co-workers describing their animal experiments with folic acid and allied substances in the treatment of transplanted and spontaneous cancer in mice. Papers by Sugiura and by Zahl and Hutner record failures to confirm the findings of the Lewisohn group, and a similar failure is recorded in the discussion by Morris. In view of the recent interest in the press over the clinical use of teropterin and diapterin, two of the folic acid derivatives, this discussion is timely. It is surprising to find how little evidence there is in animal experimentation for the use of these substances.

A section entitled "Bacterial Products" includes a series of 13 papers by the investigators at the National Cancer Institute at Bethesda, Maryland, and theankenau Hospital, Philadelphia, led by M. J. Shear and Stanley P. Reimann. These contributions suffer a bit from having waited two years and a half for publication. This is particularly true of the description by Theodore Hauschka of the possible treatment of cancer with *Trypanosoma cruzi* or its products (KR serum). Hauschka's subsequent contributions have shown disappointing results with this material.

A series of 7 papers on the chemical nature, biological action, and clinical application of the nitrogen mustards give one the impression that these substances cause very marked effects in some cases of lymphosarcoma and Hodgkin's disease, but that these effects are transitory and probably not as useful as similar changes which can

be produced with therapeutic roentgen rays. Much clinical experience is recorded in this section.

The final section, entitled "Various Clinical Aspects," contains 6 somewhat heterogeneous papers. Two of these deal with the interesting effect of urethane in leucemia.

No attempt has been made by the reviewer to catalogue all the papers in this interesting volume—obviously an impossible task in such a brief description—but perhaps enough has been said to convince the worker in cancer research that the present volume is both interesting and a "must" on his reading list.

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**Erdkunde: Archiv für wissenschaftliche Geographie.** Released by Carl Troll, ed. by Herbert Lehmann.) Bonn, Germany: Ferd. Dummlers Verlag, (22e) Kaiserstrasse 33/35. Band 1, Lfg. 1-3, pp. 120 (released May 1947). Band, RM. 24.-.

This is the first German geographic periodical to appear since World War II, and, as such, it sets an historic mark in the annals of professional geography. Beneath the mass of unhappy humanity that is postwar Germany, professional groups are beginning to sort themselves out. Among these, the geographers, with a 100-year-old tradition stemming from, and established by, such men as A. von Humboldt, C. Ritter, F. von Richt-hofen, and F. Ratzel, are beginning to stir and to offer printed evidence of their interest.

*Erdkunde* is in the best tradition of prewar German geography. It seeks to fill the gap and to follow the pattern of *Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen* of the Geographischen Anstalt Justus Perthes, and the *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*. Carl Troll and Herbert Lehmann, both of the prewar Geographisches Institut of the University of Berlin, are among the best in German geography. Carl Troll has a well-known record of opposition to the pseudoscientific infiltration of Haushofer-Geopolitik to the realm of scientific geographic research.

This issue of *Erdkunde* itself is notable for its 45-page lead article, the first of two installments, by Carl Troll under a title translated to read, "The Science of Geography in Germany, 1933 to 1945: A Critique and Justification." This is an excellent evaluation, tracing the Nazi attempt to corrupt the content of scientific geographic thought and research; the manner in which German geography was organized into societies, its meetings and periodicals; the great tragedy of the geopolitical doctrine and of the Haushofer family; the general concepts of the subfields of geography; and geographic research and expeditions in foreign lands, naming individual geographers and their work (to be fol-