This long gestation period when coupled with the usual delays in the press, means that the book is already well out of date. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the section on malaria chemotherapy in Part II of the book. This section, curiously separated from a subsequent one on protozoal chemotherapy (which is equally curiously combined with one on helminth chemotherapy) just does not do justice to the flood of papers that have appeared in the literature since 1968 on the mode of action of antimalaria drugs. An apparent exception to this is discussion of the relatively recent development of therapy for malaria with combinations of pyrimethane and sulphonamides; yet in the antibacterial chemotherapy sections in Part 1 of the book no reference is made to the earlier development of trimethoprim–sulphonamide combinations, which are now so important in Gram-negative antibacterial chemotherapy.

That the author attempted an overview of chemotherapy is to his credit; that he has not succeeded is a pity since there is clearly the need for such a book. It is to be hoped that a second, up-to-date, edition can be produced quickly.

W. E. GUTTERIDGE

Pathology of Tumours in Laboratory Animals, Volume 1, Part 1: Tumours of the Rat (International Agency for Research on Cancer Scientific Publications No. 5)
V. S. TURUSOV (Editor)

This series on neoplasms of the rat, mouse and hamster, published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, is intended primarily for the pathologist and other workers in the field of experimental oncology.

There is a paucity of authoritative illustrated texts on the morphology of tumours in laboratory rodents, and this series has been eagerly awaited by those concerned with tumours in laboratory animals. In this first part of Tumours of the Rat the quality of the eleven chapters is somewhat variable. Each chapter contains sections on normal structure, descriptions of the tumours, brief reviews of the occurrence of spontaneous tumours and the induction of tumours and finally a section on comparative aspects. Inevitably, because of the varied authorship, some questionable or challengeable statements on diagnostic criteria are evident, but these do not detract significantly from the general usefulness of the book. The quality of some of the half-tone illustrations could be improved but most are perfectly adequate for reference purposes.

Current concepts of the mechanisms of neoplastic transformation are outwith the scope of this book, but it should be included in the library of anyone concerned with oncogenesis in laboratory animals.

E. THORPE

Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk, Volumes 2 and 3: International Agency for Research on Cancer
World Health Organisation, Geneva, 1973, pp. 271 and 181 respectively, £2.25 and £1.50 respectively

Cancer is an important and sinister subject in the spectrum of human health for three reasons:

1. It is the second commonest cause of death.
2. Its cause is only partially understood.
3. The cure rate is relatively low.

More and more it is becoming suspected that an increasing number of cancers are initiated by environmental influences. These two monographs are, therefore, both