

possible.

This excellent book can be recommended to all involved in the diverse aspects of legionella infections, especially clinicians and laboratory workers who sooner or later will inevitably be faced with the problems associated with legionellosis whether in diagnosis, case management or prevention.

JOHN TOBIN

Public Health Laboratory Service

Un male curabile Umberto Veronesi. (Pp211; 18, 000 lire). Mondadori 1986. (Editor's note: This paperback has been a bestseller in Italy).

This sort of book is popular in Italy but not all that common here. Umberto Veronesi, a distinguished Italian oncologist, has written a personal testament and guide to cancer aimed at the general public. He gives a brief autobiography, a review of the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of neoplasms in all the main sites and discusses prevention, research, health education, and death.

Not that the message is of the mortality from cancer, but that it is "un male curabile" — an illness that can be treated and, implicitly, one that can be cured. The style is clear and straightforward, eminently readable even for those whose Italian is limited.

Three things strike me most forcibly: (i) the incredible advance in medical care and the health of the Italian nation (much of this has occurred in my own professional lifetime); (ii) the impetus to advance in cancer prevention and treatment produced by specialised institutes of oncology. This seems to be the rule in the rest of Europe — are we missing something in Britain? (iii) the importance of international cooperation in this field: in the epidemiology, in determining treatment protocols, and in controlled clinical trials. Three obvious truisms maybe, but ones which are worth stating or remembering.

The book is written for the general public, a rather informed one perhaps. It could provide a very good introductory text for first and second year medical students, for the years when they are encountering reference to diseases in their studies but have not yet had these diseases explained to them.

A particularly noteworthy chapter is the last one which gives the essence of what we should be doing about cancer — an interesting bit of basic community medicine this! The message is that the knowledge is there, we know what to do, and we should do it and do it a bit better than we are doing at present.

MAURICE BEAVER

Senior Lecturer, Department of Community Medicine and Epidemiology, University of Nottingham and SCM, Nottingham Health Authority