hope that they will come to discuss their problems in order to get advice on the relevance and availability of these tests.

B. W. MEADE

Hypogammaglobulinaemia in the United Kingdom. By the Medical Research Council Working Party on Hypogammaglobulinaemia. (Pp. xvi + 319; illustrated. £4.50.) London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1971.

This long awaited report surveys the findings in 176 patients with hypogammaglobulinaemia, admitted during 14 years to the MRC trial of γ -globulin treatment. It is therefore the largest single such trial ever recorded and while providing evidence that the higher dose regimen (0.05 g γ -globulin/kg/week) offers somewhat better treatment, it recommends that 0.025 g/kg should be tried initially, reserving the higher dosage for patients not responding adequately. These latter include some whom Freeman found did not show the reduction in catabolic rate (to $T_{1/2}$ 32 days or longer) expected in hypogammaglobulinaemia, although protein-losing enteropathy, etc, was not excluded.

The incidence of patients presenting at all ages and in both sexes with serum IgG levels under 200 mg/100 ml is estimated at 4 per million of the UK population with an excess of males under 10 years of age raising the male prevalence to 15 per million. The family studies, clinical details (including rheumatism), and histopathology findings are clearly recorded, as are the preparations for immunoglobulin concentrates with notes of reactions to the treatment, whereby there was only one death throughout the trial. The value of immunoglobulin estimations is given, and the measurement of isohaemagglutinins is shown to be very useful both as a parameter of the quality of IgM (meningitis only occurred with titres <1) and as a criterion of an immune deficiency state. Resting levels of other antibodies yielded useful statistics proving the value of replacement therapy, but from the ranges given (only detectable in 5% to, at best, 90% of normals) are obviously useless in decisions affecting individual patients.

The teamwork of the working party is to be congratulated in providing a hoard of useful information and in creating a national interest and service for immune deficiency states. The original trial criteria have been superseded by later experience and as the authors admit 'many oppor-

tunities for observation were lost', the heterogeneity of immune deficiency states becoming all too clear. Nevertheless this volume will long serve for useful reference and for establishing the current practice of γ -globulin treatment.

J. R. HOBBS

New Aspects of the Structure, Function, and Synthesis of Hemoglobins By T. H. J. Huisman and W. A. Schroeder (Chemical Rubber Co. (CRC) Monoscience Series). (Pp. 64; illustrated. £5.00.) London: Butterworth and Co. Ltd. 1971.

The authors in the introduction define the scope of the book, which they have purposely limited to four 'review articles' on topics of current interest in haemoglobin research: (1) 'A correlation of the structural alterations of the haemoglobin molecule with function and possible clinical symptoms'; (2) 'A discussion of oxygen dissociation and 2, 3-diphosphoglyceric acid'; (3) 'Light thrown on the genetic control of haemoglobin synthesis resulting from the study of mammalian haemoglobin polypeptide chains; and (4) 'The chemical heterogeneity of the human γ polypeptide chain'.

None of the sections can be faulted in any way. Not unnaturally, because of the authors' special interests, one obtains the impression that it is in sections 3 and 4 that they write with greatest authority.

The contents of this book ensure that it has a specialized appeal. For example, the geneticist as well as workers engaged in haemoglobin research will find this book invaluable.

R. G. HUNTSMAN

Leukaemia Cytogenetics By H. Jackson Woodliff. (Pp. xi + 146; 21 figures; 7 tables. £2.50.) London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1971.

Because of the relative ease in obtaining samples and of the steady advances in analytical methodology, chromosome studies in haematological abnormalities—leukaemias in particular—have grown into a large body of specialist literature. There has been, however, a dearth of reading material aimed at the nonspecialist or student. This brief monograph fills that gap. The succinct text is accompanied by a very respectable survey and list of literary references. The briefness of the text does not permit a detailed critical analysis of various findings, but the conclusions drawn at the end of the chapters are very

reasonable summaries with emphasis on the right perspective.

The new chromosome analytical methods to detect 'banding', eg, fluorescent staining, or the even newer, acid saline-Giemsa chromomere staining, arrived too late for leukaemia studies to be included in this book. These, however, might be features of a later edition, especially if—as it is hoped—they will contribute more specific information than the morphological data so far available.

L. G. LAJTHA

Basic Neuropathology By Ursula Slager. (Pp. xiv + 311; illustrated. \$14.75.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co. 1970.

The author's purpose was to write an account of neuropathology in terms of the principles of general pathology and to dispel the notion that neuropathology requires highly specialized knowledge of the central nervous system and laboratory techniques to be a worthwhile study for the general pathologist. The readers' mind were residents in neurosciences preparing for board examinations in the United States, physicians in pathology or the neurosciences requiring a comprehensive but compact book of neuropathology, and medical students seeking more information on the subject than would normally be found in their medical course.

Dr Slager has largely succeeded in all these objectives. The book is concise, well written, and up to date. It is largely concerned with morphology but relevant information of a chemical, histochemical, and electron microscopical nature is included. The space allocated to different topics is appropriate and a sense of proportion is kept throughout the book by frequent reference to the incidence of various conditions and their importance in medicine and neuropathology. References for those inclined to pursue subjects further are well chosen and mostly remarkably up to date.

The book is well produced. It has virtually no typographical errors and achieves within a relatively short space a splendidly concise but comprehensive statement on the present position in relation to the diseases that affect the central nervous system. The illustrations, which are numerous, are of mixed quality; the photomicrographs on the whole being considerably better than the photographs of gross specimens, some of which are