trichophytosis, and ustilagomycosis. To this reviewer, whose professional experience has been gained mostly in the UK, most of these conditions are merely names, and hence the introductory chapter giving an overall view of these infections, which are frequently, but not always, of tropical origin, is useful.

As was the case with volume 34, this volume is almost a textbook of general medicine with a neurological slant, but as with vol. 34, this is a necessary situation as these conditions are not always primary infections of the CNS. There is a constant reminder that a number of infections are opportunistic and occur in persons who are either on long-term steroids or immunosuppressed for one reason or another. Nor can pathologists who work outside the tropical belt ignore the conditions being discussed in this volume, because there is always a chance that such conditions may be encountered in their own hospitals as a result of increasing travel on business as well as pleasure, and the desire for more and more people to explore the rural areas in the tropics.

In contrast with volume 34, the biological properties and characteristics of the infective agents are not laboured as much on this occasion, the authors obviously realising that clinicians are the primary readers of this series. Clinical presentations, methods of diagnosis, and recommendations for treatment are covered adequately, and each chapter has a general list of up-to-date references. It has been more difficult to avoid an overlap of coverage in this volume than in the previous two. Cysticercosis, echinococcosis, and paragonimiasis are each given good cover in at least two different chapters. The colour illustrations are few but of high quality. Most of the black-and-white illustrations are of similar high quality, but I fear that a few of the histological illustrations could be misread by non-histologists because they lack arrows and data about the staining methods and magnification. One or two low-power illustrations might have been better omitted. Rather surprisingly, one or two chapters have no illustrations, even of the infective agent that is under discussion. Indeed, the reviewer's ignorance is so gross that he would have welcomed illustrations about the (exotic) infective agents discussed in the last chapter, to broaden his education. I hasten to add that the descriptions in the text are adequate most of the time, and one can always refer to the original publications, but I was

disappointed that most of these uncommon infections, hitherto unknown to me, were not illustrated.

With the increasing usage of powerful antimicrobial agents in the treatment of various malignant processes, it is interesting to speculate how common some of these infections might become. This is a well-produced book with a wealth of information and is as highly regarded as the other two parts (vols 33 and 34), which constitute a trio covering bacterial, viral, protozoan, helminth, and mycotic infections of the central nervous system.

J. F. BOYD

Color Atlas and Textbook of Human Anatomy. In 3 volumes. Volume 1. Locomotor System. By W. Kahle, H. Leonhardt, and W. Platzer. (Pp. x + 430; illustrated; £8.25.) Chicago and London: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1978.

The editors describe this volume as a pocket atlas, stressing that it is neither a full anatomy textbook nor for use as a dissection manual. The text is concise and systematic with clear headings but is not full enough to be reliable as a student's sole textbook. The diagrams include a sufficient variety of aspects to infer the three-dimensional structures, and there is a good, but not excessive, use of colour for clarity. It contains only limited reference to clinical applications and to developmental anatomy. The index and list of contents are adequate for the most part and aid quick reference, but there are some omissions.

This is not a suitable first book for a student but may be of use as a revision reference book. The price for this single volume, £8.25, is rather high.

J. T. M. KAY

Clinical Chemistry Companion. By A. M. Bold and P. Wilding. (Pp. 119; £3.75.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1978.

The laudable aim of this book is to provide basic information to assist doctors, students, and nurses in the efficient use of the clinical chemistry laboratory. The first portion consists of an updated version of their previous publication *Clinical Chemistry: conversion scales for SI units with Adult Normal Reference Values*. The remainder covers storage and stability of specimens together with some aspects of sideroom methods and special test procedures.

Repeatedly (and correctly) throughout the book the reader is advised to check local reference ranges, methods, required preservatives, and procedures. While this book may have value in relation to the author's laboratories it contains many discrepancies on matters of practice with other laboratories which will require local amendment and this restricts its more general utility. Most clinical chemistry departments will have a similar list or aide-mémoire for issue to their own staff, and such locally orientated information is likely to be more helpful. At £3.75 this book is expensive, and its paperback format will not last long in a white coat pocket.

B. M. SLAVIN

Clinical Aspects of Neuroimmunology. By Edward A. Neuwelt and W. Kemp Clark. (Pp. xiv + 277; illustrated; \$38.50.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins. 1978.

There are a number of surprises in this book. Firstly, it is written by two neurosurgeons, a species of doctor who is usually too busy to write on his own field never mind on another. Secondly, the book is misnamed; it deals with immunological aspects of neurological diseases and not *vice versa* as the title implies.

With these provisos, Neuwelt and Kemp Clark have written an excellent book that provides a solid foundation of immunology for the neuroscientist. It reveals a profound understanding of the subject by the authors who are actively engaged in tumour immunology—an outstanding chapter. However, the rest of the book is lucid with first-class summaries, tables, and diagrams. The book is lavishly illustrated with histological sections, radiographs, and CAT scans, all of the highest quality.

The first chapter is a comprehensive review of general immunology, and the second describes the methods used in neuroimmunology. Then follows a review of special aspects that apply to the central nervous system, specifically that the brain is a 'privileged site', and the light that immunological observations throw on CSF production. Finally, there are chapters on the role of immunological complexes in neurological disease, the immunology of myasthenia gravis, CNS infections, and demyelinating diseases central and peripheral.

The literature from both sides of the Atlantic is well encompassed, and there

fore this monograph can be recommended without reservation to those interested.

J. N. BLAU

Tumors of the Parathyroid Glands. Atlas of Tumor Pathology, Second Series, Fascicle 14. By Benjamin Castleman and Sanford I. Roth. (Pp. 94; illustrated; \$4.50.) Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1978.

This slim fascicle is an excellent summary and atlas of its subject, as would be expected by those who knew the first edition by Castleman alone, now long out of print. In addition to the valuable practical exposition there are interesting sections on the history of hyperparathyroidism and the possible functional cycle of parathyroid cells—the latter somewhat speculative. One may disagree with the authors on the emphasis on mitotic activity as the single most valuable point in diagnosing carcinoma, consider their restriction on the use of the term clear cell unnecessary, the description of colloid somewhat scrappy, and the treatment of tertiary hyperparathyroidism perfunctory. However, it is a book that all concerned with the practical management of hyperparathyroidism—physicians and surgeons as well as pathologists—will find invaluable.

J. F. SMITH

Textbook of Diagnostic Cytology. Edited by M. Y. Ali. (Pp. x + 371; illustrated; price not stated.) Sydney: The New South Wales Institute of Technology. 1978.

This book has been written by 14 Australian authors primarily for students of diagnostic cytology at the New South Wales Institute of Technology. The first part describes general principles of pathology relevant to the subject. This provides a suitable introduction for the student of medical laboratory science. The chapter on cellular responses to therapeutic measures in particular will also be of interest to the cytopathologist. The second section is on cytodiagnosis. The subject is presented concisely, and a good balance is maintained between historical facts, definitions, references, and descriptions of histological and cytological appearances. The cytology of gynaecological material is covered adequately but other anatomical sites get only brief attention.

Unfortunately, the prose style in some chapters is cumbersome, which discourages cover-to-cover reading. The

quality of the illustrations is variable, and they are mostly in black and white. This economy is probably relevant to the price of the book, which is not stated, but with a soft cover one hopes it will be modest. This book contains a lot of information and will be useful to cytotechnicians and pathologists in training. It is a welcome addition to a subject which is poorly provided with up-to-date textbooks.

ELIZABETH HUDSON

Hospital-Acquired Infections: Guidelines to Laboratory Methods. Edited by M. T. Parker. (Pp. 63; Sw.Fr. 8.) Copenhagen: WHO. 1978.

The title of this short and useful book is a little misleading. Although the application of laboratory methods to the control of hospital acquired infection forms the longest and most successful chapter, much else receives attention. The causes and sources of hospital infection are succinctly described, and advice is given on the surveillance, investigation, and control of outbreaks of infection in hospital. Naturally, in a book of only 52 pages of text there is no room for detail. However, the authors, who represent many of the countries in Europe, have achieved a uniform approach and provide a sound guide. Their advice accords in general with British practice except that they recommend smallpox vaccination to all new entrants to the hospital service and talk of testing autoclaves with bacterial spores, both procedures surely now outdated.

This book should be recommended to clinical and laboratory staff and may help to stimulate a common standard of practice in European hospitals.

P. SANDERSON

Clinical Tests of Gastric Secretion. History, Methodology and Interpretation. By J. H. Baron. (Pp. x + 277; illustrated; £12.50.) London: The Macmillan Press Ltd. 1978.

Dr J. H. Baron has written an excellent book. In 270-odd pages, and supported by 1287 references, he has provided a detailed analysis of gastric secretory tests, dealing mainly with acid output, and also with pepsin and gastrin measurements. The book opens with a short physiological introduction and goes on to deal in a practical manner with all the methods in use at present for the recording of gastrin secretory function. A section on the

diagnostic value of gastric secretion tests follows, the author ruthlessly eliminating most conditions associated with a pathological response to acid-pepsin attack as being diagnosable by secretory tests. The section contains many detailed tables. If one is looking for possible diagnostic clues this makes pretty arid reading, but perusal of this part of Dr Baron's book provides much food for thought for the clinical researcher interested in the aetiology and acid-pepsin diseases. The last section, which deals with management, describes the role of secretory tests in the surgical and post-surgical patient. This book promises to be a standard text on its subject and should be available in all departments of clinical pathology that deal with peptic ulcer patients.

J. J. MISIEWICZ

Prenatal Pathology—Fetal Medicine. By T. V. N. Persaud. (Pp. xi + 199; illustrated; \$23.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1979.

This is a 199-page hardback with 27 pages of references written by an anatomist, a cytogeneticist, and a paediatrician in Winnipeg. Almost all the illustrations, apart from those related to chromosomes, are borrowed.

It is uneven and reads like a series of lectures to students. The sections on embryogenesis and the early concepts are clear and critical but the clinical chapters are less so. They describe fetoscopy as a 'promising development'! The eight pages on common neonatal problems are an embarrassment: do we need to be told that jaundice is a yellowish colouring of the skin?

It rightly discusses intrauterine growth retardation but goes direct to biochemical tests of fetal state and maturity, discussing placental lactogen but not oestriols.

The book has attempted too much and failed but is a good source of basic references into 1977 to have available in a departmental library.

J. L. EMERY

Correction

British Medical Bulletin, Volume 34, No. 3. September 1978.

The HLA System (Pp. 213-324; UK £5.00, other countries £6.00, USA and Canada \$12.50. London: Medical Department, The British Council. 1978.

It is regretted that some of the above details were incorrect in the review published in the June issue of this journal (page 638).