Neuropathology of Parasitic Infections. W Jann Brown and Marietta Voge. (Pp 240; illustrated; £18.50.) Oxford University Press. 1982.

The effect of parasitic infections on the central nervous system and the eye is analysed in this interesting and instructive book. The format of the chapters is rather unorthodox in that, after an introductory section on the epidemiology and life cycle of the parasite under discussion, varying numbers of case reports are presented before other pathologic considerations, diagnosis, and treatment are considered. The result is an eminently readable book although some of the clinical histories are a bit long and list vast numbers of negative investigations. The latter, however, serves to emphasise the importance of thinking of parasitic infections in patients with unusual neurological symptoms.

The illustrations attain a high standard. Magnifications are not given and would have been useful with at least some of the photomicrographs. Since the authors emphasise the importance of histological studies in finalising the diagnosis, a few higher power photomicrographs would have improved the book.

HUME ADAMS

Monoclonal Antibodies in Clinical Medicine. Ed AJ McMichael and JW Fabre. (Pp 663; illustrated; £34/\$63.00.) Academic Press Inc (London) Ltd. 1982.

The clinical application of monoclonal antibodies is already a vast topic and difficult to assimilate. The purpose of this book is to point out the potentials and problems of these exquisite instruments. A monoclonal antibody is rather like an ultra high power objective bringing a new power of discriminant perception but at a risk of losing one's way. Thus in the case of anti-HLA antibodies the monoclonals have tended to specify epitopes which may be common to more than one antigen rather than mimic the polyclonal specificities, but that may be because these are still mouse-made antibodies; and, as is explained here, the age of the more difficult human monoclonals is yet to come.

The applications described concern the antigens of blood cells, immunocytes of all sorts, malignant cells (including a chapter on the magic bullets of toxin-antibody conjugates), cells of the CNS, liver, placenta, virus and virus-induced cell antigens, bacterial and plasmodial antigens, and a lot more besides. A section on

practical aspects of production and purification, and appendices listing nearly 200 antibodies completes a book which is bound to be of immense help to clinical pathologists for some years to come.

HEM KAY

Pathophysiology of Shock, Anoxia, and Ischemia. Ed R Adams Cowley and Benjamin F Trump. (Pp 710; illustrated; \$90.00.) Williams & Wilkins. 1982.

This monograph, running to 49 chapters, is subdivided into four sections—basic pathophysiology, shock and related phenomena, injury of the central nervous system, and vascular insufficiency. The book provides a considerable amount of information, and in particular the chapters on aspects of cellular injury and metabolic responses, on alterations in the microcirculation, and on various organs dysfunction in shock provide good reviews of the considerable increase in knowledge of these topics in the past decade. In addition to a sub-section on the current therapy of shock there are also chapters dealing with the treatment of acute renal failure, adult respiratory distress syndrome, head injury, spinal cord injury, and myocardial infarction. It is the attempt to cover such a very large amount of ground within one volume which is the major criticism to be levelled against this volume. Much that is of general interest is included along with material which is of a highly specialised and sophisticated nature and the consequent risks of producing some superficial and sketchy accounts of certain topics have not been avoided. The monograph will be of considerable interest and value to those immediately involved in the management of intensive therapy units; the general reader will find it a useful book to refer to in the medical library.

RNM MACSWEEN

Early Gastric Cancer. Proceedings of the Second BSG SK & F International Workshop 1981. Ed PB Cotton. (Pp 83; illustrated; no price given.) Smith Kline & French Laboratories Ltd. 1982.

Despite its falling incidence in many countries gastric cancer continues to have an appalling prognosis. The Japanese experience suggests that detection at an early phase can effect improvement and this report of an International Workshop presents a varied and informative discussion of the diagnostic methods available and of

the logistic and philosophical difficulties involved in deciding how and when these methods should be applied. While some pathologists may find the terminology confusing, especially in the absence of photomicrographs, the background data provided by dissertations on premalignant lesions and high risk groups should greatly assist those faced with investigating this formidable problem.

FD LEE

Pathology. Understanding Human Disease. A Golden. (Pp 480; illustrated; £16.25.) Williams & Wilkins. 1982.

In a space of less than 500 pages this book sets out to cover processes subsumed in the term general pathology, and organ or systemic pathology. It is fairly lavishly illustrated with good sized figures, but this of course reduces the amount of letter press. I found it a rather frustrating book to read chiefly I believe because of the confines imposed on its author by the twin pressures of book length and the large number of areas of knowledge dealt with.

Professor Golden is clearly a most scholarly pathologist and teacher of great experience but this space limitation (whether self-imposed or not) simply does not allow him to cover many subjects in sufficient depth for final year medical students in the United Kingdom.

N WOOLF

Origins of Clinical Chemistry. The Evolution of Protein Analysis. L Rosenfeld. (Pp 366; illustrated; \$38.) Academic Press Inc. 1982.

For anyone with a keen interest in the history of protein analysis in laboratory medicine this book fills a large gap. There is a full index, comprehensive list of references for the areas covered, and many excellent illustrations.

The book fulfils its task in describing the development of selected analytical methods and their applications in medicine. The early achievements and discoveries are better described than the more modern approaches. The original techniques are easy to follow but the more modern developments are dealt with in a comparatively unbalanced manner. It is difficult to write and easy to criticise a book of this type. There are some notable omissions in that there is no mention of gel filtration, ion exchange chromatography, isoelectric focusing, or the affinity methods.