black-and-white illustrations are excellent. It is unlikely that this book will find much place in the regular British pre-clinical curriculum and it is too biological for the clinical period. It will be useful to the exceptional student, for elective courses, and for additional reading. Parts of it will make refreshing reading for the postgraduate research worker and pathology teacher.

E. A. WRIGHT

Intestinal Ion Transport. Edited by J. W. L. Robinson. (Pp xiii + 430; illustrated; £12.50.) Lancaster: Medical and Technical Publishing. 1976.

This book constitutes the Proceeding of the 4th Falk International Symposium held at Titisee in May 1975. There were 52 participants. Thirty-five papers were read dealing with ion transport and its relation to the absorption of foodstuffs, such as sugars and aminoacids, and ranging from mammals to tortoise, frog, eel, and fish. Discussions are recorded in full. Most of the work described is too specialized to be of interest to the average clinical chemist, but there is an admirable closing summary by D. S. Parsons, which gives a very good picture of the current situation in this field and will be of interest to anyone concerned with transport mechanisms. From the clinical point of view the most stimulating contribution is by Rask-Madsen, indicating that the rare condition of congenital chloridorrhoea may be due to inversion of a transport mechanism which is inhibited by theophylline and that the latter drug in suitable form may provide effective treatment.

The book is well produced, and editor and publishers are to be congratulated on achieving a publication date within nine months of the symposium.

G. K. MCGOWAN

Greenfield's Neuropathology, 3rd edition. Edited by W. Blackwood and J. A. N. Corsellis. (Pp xiii + 946; illustrated; £37.50.) London: Edward Arnold. 1976.

The publication of a new edition of a familiar and well-tryed text must always arouse mixed feelings—pleasure that it has not passed into limbo but trepidation lest the features that made it popular have been altered beyond recognition. Having recovered from the nearly eight-fold price increase, the reader's first impression

of *Greenfield's Neuropathology* is that it is exactly the same as its predecessors. Admittedly there is a marked improvement in the layout, with two columns of print per page rather than the solid mass of previous editions, but the photographs and text seem the same. It is, therefore, with considerable surprise that one discovers that the book is nearly one-third larger with 946 pages as opposed to 679 in the second edition. The publishers have disguised this increase in bulk by using thinner paper. The editors have been more subtle and have persuaded the eminent group of British neuropathologists who have revised the book to do so with considerable skill.

The foreword concludes with the remark 'The purpose of this book . . . is to help those who wish to be able to recognise the gross and microscopical features of disease of the Central Nervous System'. The first two editions succeeded in this aim and the third edition carries on the tradition unerringly.

W. SCARRATT

Viral Diseases of the Central Nervous System. Edited by L. S. Illis. (Pp xiv + 226; illustrated; £7.50.) London: Baillière Tindall. 1975.

This book by neurologists, pathologists, and virologists is based on a symposium held in Southampton.

Part one is devoted to the nature, diagnosis, and treatment of Acute and Subacute Encephalitis and provides a very readable summary of the present position. Especially interesting are two attempts, by different approaches, to assess the frequency in the UK of the various viral infections of the CNS. Herpes encephalitis is discussed in depth, and a carefully balanced view of its therapy is given.

A little more space might have been given to postinfectious encephalitis, which accounts for half the notifications (see page 25) but of which the pathogenesis is still unknown.

In Part two the Transmissible and Degenerative Diseases of the Nervous System are considered under the headings of clinical aspects, pathology, and transmission experiments. The diseases known to be transmissible, Kuru and Jacob-Creutzfeldt, are discussed in detail and compared with the animal diseases, scrapie and mink encephalopathy, and with other degenerative diseases, Alz-

heimer, some forms of Parkinsonism and motor neurone disease, for which an infective aetiology has been postulated.

A. H. TOMLINSON

Trace Components of Plasma: Isolation and Clinical Significance. Edited by G. A. Jamieson and T. J. Greenwalt. (Pp xii + 428; illustrated; \$41.95; Dfl. 105.00.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co. 1976.

This is the fifth volume in a series devoted to Progress in Clinical and Biological Research and is the proceedings of the 7th American Red Cross Annual Scientific Symposium held in Washington in May 1975. The speed of publication mirrors the up-to-date nature of each of the articles, which are devoted to discussing trace plasma compounds which, by definition, are proteins not present in amounts greater than 10 mg/100 ml. To the present reviewer, involved in ultra-trace proteins, such concentrations seem vast.

The book is introduced by an excellent article giving an overview of the entire topic and then continues to deal with the recent advances in the complement and coagulation systems, together with a discussion of antiproteases, acute phase proteins, fetal and pregnancy-associated proteins, cell surface markers, and transplantation antigens and hormone binding proteins. Each is presented from a clinical, biological, pathological, and clinical view-point and is concise, clear, and adequately illustrated.

This will be a book of interest to clinical biochemists and haematologists in particular, but also to fundamental biologists and chemists. It has only one real apparent drawback—the seemingly disproportionate cost. What will the price of a book on ultratrace proteins be?

A. M. NEVILLE