there is accompanying iron deficiency, chronic inflammatory disease, or malignancy, but as we were concerned only with the significance of a raised MCV we did not correlate all the laboratory and clinical investigations of those patients with a normal MCV.

It is suggested that blood film morphology, serum folate estimations, and bone marrow examinations would have been more appropriate in screening all geriatric patients with a raised MCV. The serum folate is too sensitive, being reduced in up to one-third of all geriatric admissions, and a bone marrow examination is impractical as 11% of all geriatric admissions would require one.

We would still advise re-assessment after six months of the folate status of those geriatric patients who have a raised MCV that cannot be explained.

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Book reviews

A Colour Atlas of Neuropathology. By C. S. Treip. (Pp. 208; illustrated; £15.00) London: Wolfe Medical Publications. 1978.

This welcome addition to the other books in the series already published consists of an introductory manual of diagnostic neuropathology. There are 11 chapters, an appendix of practical procedures, a bibliography of key references, and a good index, the figures of which give both the caption number and the page reference.

In the first chapter the histology of the normal central nervous system and the reactions of its main cell types to injury are described. It would have been particularly helpful at this point if an account of the common artefacts 'the dark cell' and 'hydropic cell change', and the features of the 'respirator brain' had been included. The remaining 10 chapters deal with such important topics as inflammatory disease, vascular, degenerative, and demyelinating diseases, metabolic disorders and nutritional deficiencies, traumatic lesions, congenital malformations and perinatal disorders, and both intracranial tumours and tumours of the peripheral nervous system. Subjects not covered are diseases of peripheral nerve and of muscle.

The text is concise, well written, and informative. It is generally comprehensive, even though several common lesions are not mentioned, for example, infarction in the arterial boundary zones and acute subdural haematoma. The atlas contains some 320 illustrations of both necropsy and surgical material, many of which are in colour. Even though the colour in many instances has been faithfully reproduced, I remain unconvinced that the technical quality is sufficiently good to match black-and-white photography.

In spite of these criticisms, some of which could be put right in future editions, this atlas is strongly recommended to pathologists in training and as a useful source of information for those working in clinical neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry.

D. I. GRAHAM

Fundamentals of Sensorineural Auditory Pathology. By William B. Dublin. (Pp. xii + 229; illustrated; \$22.00) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1976.

This short work is dedicated to the pro-

position that the central portion of the auditory pathway must be included in the histopathological examination of cases of sensorineural hearing loss. Such a proposition, while laudable, is impracticable. The pathology of the inner ear is just beginning to emerge from an obscurity produced by its position within the dense shell of the petrous temporal bone. Understanding of the higher auditory pathways and their pathology is in an even more primitive state. The author seems to belong to the rare few who are able to pursue the study of both areas. Unfortunately, his book does not contain sufficient material to be of great help to those seeking information in either field.

Almost half of the work is devoted to the basic anatomy, and this is the most useful part of the book. It represents a review of the histology and electron microscopy of the whole auditory pathway, and as such contains material not easy to find within a single article. This section is well illustrated; it is worth having the book for this part alone.

The rest of the volume is divided into short chapters covering developmental abnormalities, infections, injuries, tumours, and metabolic disorders. Much of this material is brief and superficial. It is naturally devoted largely to the inner ear and invites unfavourable comparison with larger recent works on the subject.

The book does not do much to help the author's thesis. Perhaps a future larger work by this author on the same basis may be more useful.

L. MICHAELS

Pathology of the Lung (excluding pulmonary tuberculosis). In 2 volumes. By H. Spencer with a Foreword by Averill A. Liebow. (Volume 1—pp. xv + 542; illustrated; Volume 2—pp. xi + 556; illustrated; £47.50 the 2-volume set) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1977.

The third edition of *Pathology of the Lung* by Professor Spencer appears nine years after the second, during which time the popularity of, and demand for the book have been demonstrated by three further reprintings. As in previous editions, the emphasis of the book is maintained towards the pathology and pathogenesis of pulmonary disease and, in particular, towards clinicopathological correlations.

The whole text has been revised with pruning of obsolescent text and photo-