trichophyiosis, 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 antimitotic 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


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


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 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. SLAY


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, Neuweilt 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 immuneological 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 of central and peripheral.

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