cover red blood cells, white cells, platelet and coagulation factors, haematological malignancies, transfusion, and AIDS and the blood.

There has been a good selection since many articles have provided an important contribution to increasing our understanding of unanswered problems in haematology. The expert assessments range from well considered and valuable statements to cryptic one line comments which are of little use.

There are two problems: the first is that although the emphasis in the introduction is in providing the reader with an up to date source of information, in reality nearly all the papers included in the 1987 Year Book were originally published in 1985; the other worry is that it is uncertain who would benefit from buying and reading this book. Most haematologists with special interests will already be aware at the time of publication of most of the papers which the editor has included. Those who are training in haematology and the non-specialist would perhaps be better served by well written review articles which are regularly included in a number of publications.

DA WINFIELD

Atlas of Fetal Sectional Anatomy with Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging. G Isaacson, MC Mintz, ES Crelin. (Pp 184; 278 figs; DM 228.) Springer. 1986. ISBN 3-540-96248-4.

In this atlas a series of anatomical sections of the head, neck, and trunk in the coronal, sagittal, and axial planes are correlated with appearances of the same sections on ultrasound and magnetic resonance scans. The anatomical sections are well prepared and each is accompanied by a line drawing with detailed labelling of structures. Additional chapters illustrate development of the brain, limbs, and heart. The quality of all the illustrations is excellent.

This book would be a useful addition to the library of a histopathologist interested in neonatal pathology. It provides new ideas for a sectional approach to post mortem dissection, especially where comparison with imaging methods used in life would be helpful.

The atlas also fulfils the need for an anatomical reference text for ultrasonographers. The clinical application of the magnetic resonance images is at present limited but likely to increase in the future.

JUDITH AW WEBB
HELENE REES

Introduction to Biopsy Interpretation and Surgical Pathology. 2nd ed. JCE Underwood. (Pp 217; £19.50.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-17495-8.

The first edition of this book was very well received by trainees and seniors alike. It successfully aimed to give an outline of the working diagnostic pathologist's world. Some indication of the history of the various methods of examination, the philosophical basis of how we achieve a diagnosis, and a review of the working pathologist's armamentarium formed the basis of the book.

This second edition retains most of the matter in the first, and is now extended to consider cytology, post mortem examinations, some of the various forms of quality control, and immunohistochemistry. The balance between the topics remains excellent. Old and new have been given their place. The whole book is an excellent read. This second edition can be thoroughly recommended to histopathologists at all levels. It is both an introduction and a very enjoyable companion.

JD DAVIES

Central Nervous System Diseases. Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology. Vol 10. Volume Eds HS Rosenberg, J Bernstein (Pp 264; £120.) Karger. 1987. ISBN 3-8055-4403-0.

Two volumes of this series in one year represent an outstanding effort on the part of the editors and the publishers - Volume 9, *Neoplasia in Infancy and Childhood*, appeared earlier - but this is presumably restoring the balance of past production difficulties rather than the shape of things to come. Four chapters focus on CNS tumours (CNS tumours of childhood, biology of human gliomas, primary intracranial germ cell tumours, and retinoblastoma). The other contributions are an account of the free living amoebae pathogenic for man, *Naegleria* and *Acanthamoeba*, and perhaps surprisingly in view of the volume's title a review of the uncommon malformation, Sirenomelia. There is a uniformly high standard of writing and illustration throughout and the volume is beautifully produced. The only reservation concerns the broad overlap of content between the two most recent volumes of *Perspectives* and Finegold's *Pathology of Neoplasia in Children and Adolescents*, the latter scoring heavily on a cost comparison. *Perspectives* appears to be caught in the narrow market high cost trap, a great pity for an excellent series.

AAM GIBSON

STAT: The Laboratory's Role. Kathleen Sazama, Mary G Haugh. (Pp. 100; \$27.50) The Raven Press. 1987. ISBN 0-89189-210-9

This small book examines thoroughly the issues which a clinical biochemist should face when establishing a rapid response (STAT) analytical service in a hospital biochemistry department. The book is not designed to cover the provision of an out of hours service but many of the problems are the same. The many figures of algorithms showing the decision processes, and the tables listing summaries of data, advantages and disadvantages of the procedures are very helpful. Differences between American and United Kingdom practice appear from time to time, but mostly the United Kingdom readers will be familiar with the problems described. At \$27.50 this book is expensive for its size, but at the cost of about 2.5 odd of hours calls it may be considered a good investment for a newly appointed consultant or top grade biochemist.

MG RINSLER

Systemic Pathology. 3rd ed. Volume 1. Alimentary Tract. Ed Basil C Morson (Pp 462; £65.) Churchill Livingstone. 1987. ISBN 0-443-03095-2.

It will be reassuring to many pathologists that this latest volume in the systemic pathology series sustains the high standards of its distinguished predecessors. In general it fulfils its promise to be up to date and comprehensive. It is also admirably documented and for the most part well illustrated. While it would be invidious to single out individual sections, those concerning the oral cavity, teeth, and salivary glands are especially helpful and impressive. Inevitably in a rapidly developing specialty some of the sections have been overtaken by events, in particular the interesting, albeit controversial, developments which are taking place with regard to the aetiology of gastritis. It is also a pity that the new prognostic protocol for colorectal carcinoma developed by one of the contributors could not have been included. Nonetheless this book is indispensable reading for any pathologist engaged in, or training for, service work or seeking to specialise in alimentary pathology; nor will clinical gastroenterologists in search of enlightenment be disappointed.

FD LEE