highly regular over consecutive recording periods. Indeed, movements made by patients at maximum frequencies were qualitatively similar to movements made at the same frequencies by control subjects.

Most striking was the inability of all patients to produce smoothly alternating movements at or below frequencies of about 1-0 Hz (fig 1, middle, lower sets of records). At these low frequencies, movements typically were irregular with abrupt changes in velocity throughout the movement. The frequency at which this breakdown in movement occurred varied widely across patients, ranging from 1-0 to 0-6 Hz. At 0-5 Hz movements became considerably irregular in all patients with prolonged periods of rapid velocity transients.

ACTA HUMANIS 1039

Significant upper limb impairment in patients who may otherwise show only minimal cerebellar signs.

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BOOK REVIEWS


This volume continues the tradition of excellence which has accrued from the impact of previous editions in this series. The aim of this series is to provide a collection of succinct and timely reviews of particular interesting points in clinical neurological written by leading authorities in the relevant subject areas. This aim has always been admirably achieved and the current volume, reviewed here, carries this forward. All the chapters have many strengths and while I feel it would be invidious to single out particular contributions to any great extent I feel compelled to make the following specific comments.

There is something in this book for everybody ranging from junior staff just beginning their training in neurology to the established clinician from a single point of view, I was particularly pleased to see clear descriptions of the syndromes of chronic paroxysmal hemicrania and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy (CIDP). In my view, both these conditions are still seriously understudied, and in view of the important therapeutic implications of both disorders, should be more widely known. Indeed, considering the paucity of neurological services in the UK, I could not help feeling that the chapter on inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy should be widely read by general physicians.

The expanding areas of the general role of magnetic resonance in neurological practice and prion related disease are presented in a balanced way, and it is useful to have a current review of expanding impact of mitochondrial pathology in neurological disease. The mechanisms subserving the control of eye movements are notoriously complex, but the editor has found two authors who have been able to give an admirably lucid summary of their areas of expertise.

All in all, this volume is highly recommended. A copy should be available for day to day reference in all departments of neurology. It will also find a worthy place in the libraries of district general hospitals lacking on-site neurological units and I would, perhaps provocatively, suggest that before being deposited in such libraries, the volume should be given to district general practitioners so that general physicians to read the chapter on inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy!

J D MITCHELL


Once again Byron Kakulas’ Co-editors and Publishers are to be congratulated on the timely publication of what is now the second in a series of monographs devoted to Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy. The format is similar to that of their initial volume (Pathogenesis of Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy; 1990) and consists of a series of lectures given by experts in the field followed by, what appears to be, a verbatim transcription of the discussion which followed each paper.

In Part 1, the localisation, distribution and function of dystrophin are reviewed in the light of developments from their earlier volume. In Part 2, the potential of myoblast transfer as a method for introducing the missing dystrophin into muscle cells is discussed at length and the limitations of such an approach are clearly identified. The third part is concerned with gene therapy which, at present, is still in its infancy but the possibilities in that field are clearly reviewed.

Once again, following each section, there is a general discussion which provides much of interest to the research worker in the field irrespective of whether he is involved in clinical or basic research. The papers themselves provide a very balanced overview of the situation in respect to the rapidly advancing field of molecular biology up to the time of the meeting.

Roses introduces a measure of clinical transcription when he says, “The scientific excitement and experimentation concerning
the biology of dystrophin...has obscured a focused, scientific commitment to the needs of the patient...The main aim of this book is to bring the making of dystrophin, or even restoring normal muscular histology, is the successful treatment of skeletal and cardiac muscle affected boys hoping they will lead normal lives. This is a sense of urgency which is clear throughout the monograph.

This book can be recommended to every Neurologist and Scientist working in the field of Duchenne/Becker Muscular Dystrophy for their shelves and should be in the Library of all Departments who are charged with the care of these boys. It is to be hoped that this series will continue.

WJK CUMMING


This volume sets out to be a new edition of "Epidemiology of Anencephalus and Spina Bifida" by Elwood and Elwood (1980), but events overtook it. In addition to updating the original sound, including substantial advances in pre-natal diagnosis, it became necessary to review developments in the field of primary prevention, and the ethical and legal issues associated with neural tube defects (NTD).

Most of the book (more than twice as large as its predecessor) discusses the classical approaches to the epidemiology of NTD, each chapter reviewing the relevant literature in excess and ending with a summary and comment. The generous use of Figures and Tables helps the reader to grasp the tremendous amount of information presented.

In the field of primary prevention, the results of the MRC vitamin supplementation trial were published as the book approached completion. The authors have, however, included a comprehensive account of its confirmation of the protective effect of high dose folate acid against recurrence of NTD. They could not wait for the outcome of the Hungarian study showing prevention of the first occurrence of NTD by low dose folic acid & multivitamins (Czeizel and Dudas, N Engl J Med 1992;327:1832-5).

The ethical and legal issues relating to prenatal diagnosis, pregnancy termination, clinical trials and post-natal treatment (NTD non-treatment) of babies with spina bifida are thoroughly and thoughtfully reviewed by Professor Alastair Campbell. I wish Chapter 15 had been entitled "Nutrition" rather than "Diet", for the compelling account of vitamin story than what people eat. Otherwise there is little to criticise. The book is beautifully produced and is a superb work of reference.

DICK SMITHELLS


Behavioral endocrinology is written as an undergraduate text book which reviews in a clear and interesting manner current knowledge of the effect of hormones on behaviour and of behaviour on the release of hormones. The main areas covered are sexual behaviour, parental behaviour, aggressive behaviour, the stress response, ingestive behaviour and sleep rhythms. The main species covered are rodents but a wide number of other species are covered from invertebrates, to which a whole chapter is devoted, to frogs, snakes, lizards, birds and hyenas. The comparative approach makes for enjoyable reading and indicates how the influence of hormones on behaviour is inversely related to the development of the cerebral cortex. So what then does the book have to say about human behavioural endocrinology?

In the area of clinical psychoendocrinology some parts are disappointing. It is true that there are few findings that would merit detailed discussion but the endocrinology of depression and the behavioural consequences of Cushings Syndrome would have merited a chapter in their own right but yet are hardly mentioned. There are also areas which provide useful "bridges" between basic and clinical behavioral endocrinology. Thus the development of learned helpless—an animal model for depression—is dependent upon the activation of central glucocorticoid receptors. If undergraduates reading such a textbook do not know of the existence of such bridges they will never cross them.

For someone wanting an introduction to the effects of hormones on behaviour in the animal kingdom this is a good book and a very enjoyable read. It is not an ideal text for trainee psychiatrists or neurologists: but then it was not written for them.

S CHECKLEY


This multi-authored volume provides extensive coverage of cerebellar disease under major sections such as structural, neoplastic, vascular, degenerative, infectious, demyelinating, and metabolic categories. There are many strong contributions including chapters on chapters on maternal endocrinology, anatomy and imaging diagnosis. Tumours, von Hippel-Lindau disease, radiation therapy and paraneoplastic disease are all covered well. For example, Neilson's helpful to see an account of the autoimmune aspects of paraneoplasia, and tabulation of the different cerebellar, antibodies. For the vascular specialist four chapters on cerebellar infarctions, haemorrhage, venous disease and transcranial Doppler seem the most impressive and reflect much of the recent interest in this area. The section on degenerative disease was clearly the most challenging to organise for it consists of assorted subject matter, often in brief contributions, including three chapters on Machado-Joseph disease, seven on Friedreich's ataxia and one on the ataxias, appropriately reflecting local experience. Nevertheless the range of authors and experience will be of particular interest to specialists. The chapter on genetics including a considerable detail of animal studies of foetal toxicity, struck me as being appropriate justification for the US Surgeon General's warning to expectant women. There are relatively few chapters, but this is an excellent buy devoted to cerebellar disease, and although this book does not include comprehensive coverage of the degenerations, it does contain some fascinating contributions and a feast for the hungry mind of the generalist. Specialists should also see it.

WRG GIBB

WJK Cumming

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