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The Editor will welcome Short Reports or Preliminary Communications limited to about 1000 words and with no more than one figure and one table. Also welcome are Letters to the Editor.

ETHICS Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *British Medical Journal* 1964;2:177)).

ABBREVIATIONS Measurements should be expressed in SI units (see *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 1974;27:590-7; *British Medical Journal* 1974;4:490; *International System of Units* 1972. National Bureau of Standards, Special Publication 330. United States Bureau of Printing: Washington). For recognised abbreviations see *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry* 1975;38:1-5; and *Units, Symbols and Abbreviations*, Third Edition 1977, edited by DN Baron, Royal Society of Medicine: London.

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Coers C, Woolf AL. *The innervation of muscle. A biopsy study*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1951:16-24.

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Atlas of the Human Brain Stem and Spinal Cord. By James D Fix and Carroll S Punte. (40 plates; £12.95.) Distributed by MTP Press Ltd, Lancaster, 1981.

There have been several recent illustrated text books of human neuroanatomy and in reviewing this latest work on the anatomy of the brain stem and spinal cord one naturally makes comparisons with previous publications. One difficulty is to decide the readership for which this text is intended. It would be useful to a medical student, since the level of treatment of the subject is elementary, but one wonders why a student would buy an anatomical atlas on such a specialised area and if the price of £12.95 would not be too high.

The production is generally excellent with good reproduction of plates and a sensible lie-flat spiral binding in paperback. The pictures show the spinal cord in transverse sections stained for myelin at five levels. There is some technical error either in the staining or in the reproduction of plate 3. A neuropathologist, neurosurgeon, neurologist or spinal therapist would require more segmental levels than those illustrated. The anatomist would be interested in additional Nissl stains to see more clearly the neuronal bodies making up the neuronal pools. The brain stem is shown in sections transverse to the neuraxis but in addition there are pictures of sections in the parasagittal, frontal and horizontal planes. These last mentioned pictures are particularly useful and show well the various neuronal structures in the brain stem and nearby parts of the brain and cerebellum. Again to see neuronal cell bodies in a cell stain such as Nissl would be helpful. The terminology is described as American vernacular but is a mixture of Latin and English and is unobjectionable, apart from the use of dorsal and ventral for posterior and anterior. The section on anatomical localisation and clinical presentation of the various spinal cord and brain stem syndromes is interesting but common to several rival publications. This part would be of great use to clinical medical students. The index is adequate for the type of book.

In summary, an elementary atlas, excellent in its way but expensive and specialised. Its greatest use would be as a manual for medical students to be given out in a practical class for a half day devoted to the anatomy of the spinal cord and brain stem.

J TREVOR HUGHES

Acta Neuropathologica/Supplementum 7 Experimental and Clinical Neuropathology. Edited by K Jellinger, F Gullotta, M Mossakowski. (Pp 409; \$87.20.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1981.

The Seventh Supplementum of *Acta Neuropathologica* contains the abstracts of the papers delivered at the First European Neuropathology Meeting held in Vienna in May, 1980. These short reports are grouped according to the subjects of neuro-oncology, infections and demyelinating diseases, metabolic disorders, peripheral nerve pathology and myopathology. Under the heading of experimental and clinical neuropathology, which has become the slightly over-ambitious title of the proceedings, are accommodated abstracts covering a wide field of topics. Some of the reports are new, others not so, and the overall standard varies greatly. The reproduction of the illustrations, particularly of the electron micrographs, are consistently of excellent standard. The variety of subjects makes the turning of the pages of this book rewarding, but the price to pay to satisfy cursory interest is prohibitive.

P LANTOS

Recent Advances in EEG and EMG Data Processing. Edited by Nariyoshi Yamaguchi and Kiyoshi Fujisawa. (Pp 408; US\$72.25, Dfl148.) Amsterdam: Elsevier/North Holland Biomedical Press, 1981.

This book includes 37 papers on methods of analysis of spontaneous EEG, evoked potentials and EMG given at the International Conference on EEG and EMG Data Processing held in Japan in September 1981.

The standard is somewhat uneven and the clinical yield appears to be rather small for the amount of work presented. However it is a useful and up to date guide to methodology for the specialist.

RG WILLISON

Notices

The International Conference of the Neurotraumatology Committee of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, on Recent Advances in Neurotraumatology, will be held in the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 20-22 September 1982. Organising Secretary (INCRAN), Department of Surgical Neurology, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Fifth International Symposium on Brain Edema will be held in Groningen, Netherlands, 10th-12th June, 1982. Information may be obtained from the Symposium Secretariat, PO Box 252, 6710 BG EDE, The Netherlands.

CORRECTION

In the paper by Dr Tateishi, "Antibiotics and antivirals do not modify experimentally-induced Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in mice" (*J Neuro Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1981;44:723-4), the first sentence under *Discussion* should read—"Unconventional properties of the mouse passage CJD agent derived from patient KF were reported previously and the infectivity titre (LD₅₀) was between 10⁷ and 10⁸ per gram of mouse brain."

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