encephalomyelitis. Capsaicin, produced by peppers, gets a chapter to itself as a sensory neurotoxin specifically damaging nociceptive neurons, particularly those containing substance P and other neuropeptides. Dioxin, a contaminant of Agent Orange, is reported as producing forms of dystonia which is fascinating if confirmed. There is a helpful chapter on botulinus toxin which will need to be read by anyone using this for the treatment of focal dystonia and will be of interest to others. There are three excellent chapters on MPTP giving its history, discussions on the animal model, the proposed mechanisms of such selective damage, and the MAO connection; all are excellent though admittedly much of this information is fairly easily available elsewhere.

The book will be required reading for anyone interested in neurotoxicology or in investigating mechanisms of cell death. Most clinical neurologists will be interested to browse through it for an hour or two. These are exciting times in neurology and reading this excellent book quickly demonstrates how over the next few years we are likely to see very substantial advances in understanding mechanisms of neural cell damage and death and how best to take avoiding action.

AC WILLIAMS

Pain—mechanisms and management. By Howard L Fields. (Pp 354; £39.00.) Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill Book Co (UK) Ltd, 1987.

With the enormous increase in pain research in the fields of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and biochemistry, coupled with the proliferation of methods for pain relief, it is surprising that any individual is now capable of producing an authoritative overall view of the subject of pain. In this book Howard Fields shows that it is possible. He gives us a coherent, well-balanced and above all clear account of modern ideas about pain, ranging from basic research, through psychological aspects of pain, to a practical approach to management of patients with pain. The brief introduction is concerned with definition and description of pain, the major neural pathways involved, and the factors involved in the experience of pain. There follow chapters on the anatomy, physiology and pharmacology of pain in the intact nervous system and then consideration of pain mechanisms in the damaged nervous system. Throughout, Fields enhances the text with well chosen case his-

tories. In addition to a consideration of the psychology of pain, there are chapters on patient evaluation, analgesic drugs, other drugs sometimes useful for their analgesic effect and non drug methods for pain control. Finally, there is a summary chapter on a general approach to comprehensive pain management.

The scope of this book is immense. Fields has succeeded in conveying a vast amount of information in a small space without obscuring the important and controversial issues. The illustrations are excellent and for a book of this size, it is generously referenced. The book is a delight to read and for the new student of pain, it cannot be recommended too highly. For all those dealing with pain problems, this book will provide a valuable and easily accessible source of information.

JW SCADDING

Neurolaryngology: Recent Advances. Edited by Minoru Hirano, John A Kirchner and Diane M Bless. (Pp 281; £34.00.) Basingstoke: Taylor and Francis, 1987.

It is never easy to give the proceedings of a symposium the semblance of a balanced textbook, but the editors of this Japanese conference, held in 1986, have succeeded remarkably well. All but one of the contributors were Japanese yet the English translations are crisp, idiomatic and coherent. That must be a tribute to the work of the single American participant Dr Kirchner, and his coeditor Dr Bless. The result is a thoroughly satisfactory and workmanlike discussion of the vast topic of neurolaryngology, which could well serve as a basic text for any newcomer to the field. The purely scientific sections on anatomy, and neurophysiology are highly informative, and offer valuable access to descriptions of techniques, such as those used in axonal tracing. There is clinical information on prognostic aspects of electrophysiological testing, and the relationship between fundamental physiological knowledge and its application to the damaged larynx. An excellent chapter by Professor Hirano lays Semon's law logically to rest. The use of purely anatomical study is indicated by the comments, in a discussion on brain stem disease, about the selective damage which the nucleus ambiguus may suffer, because of the topographical arrangement of its neurons.

The papers here are based on studies on cats, dogs and man. The similarities between the action of laryngeal muscles in dogs and man is mentioned, but it would be useful for the reader to learn rather more about the differences between the species, than is discussed.

There is virtually no space allocated to therapeutic issues—apart from brief mention of voice training and augmentation of the paralysed cord. The interested reader will have to look elsewhere.

In short I can strongly recommend this book as a useful guide to the subject of neurolaryngology, with congratulations to the editors on its uniformity of style.

H LUDMAN

Early Detection and Management of Cerebral Palsy. Edited by H Galjaard, HFR Pasch, M Velickovic. (Pp 149; £46.50.) Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff, 1987.

Unfortunately this small book does not live up to the expectation from its title and editors. There are some very good chapters by individuals (B Hagberg on epidemiology, S Levitt on management and D Morris on emotional aspects) but as a whole the book does not hang together. There are articles dealing very peripherally with the subject such as prenatal detection of genetic disease and the ultrasonography of malformation which although quite good themselves are entirely out of place. Some of the chapters are obviously translated unfortunately rather poorly.

There are articles on prediction of cerebral palsy and antenatal factors (but the National Collaborative Study is hardly mentioned). However there is very little of the early diagnosis of cerebral palsy for the practitioner nor any attempt to evaluate intervention.

No book of this size on cerebral palsy could be comprehensive, but it is difficult for the reader picking up the book to know what it covers. It really is a series of articles on the subject which I believe has not been edited tightly enough. Perhaps I expected too much.

SH GREEN