covering all aspects of clinical neuroendocrinology from basic neuroanatomy through neuropharmacology and the physiological and pathological regulation of pituitary hormone secretion, to psychoneuroendocrinology and immunoneuroendocrinology. They have achieved this with clarity, uniformity of style, good cross-referencing and illustrations which clearly emphasise endocrine dynamics.

This book maintains its interest to the reader by providing historical perspective and up to date research data. I like the way the more technical data are provided in small print which can be read if more detail is required, or left out without severe interruption of the text.

No two-author book of this size can be fully up-to-date in all areas and there are several places where the information is contradictory or misleading, and interspecies differences glossed over. An example would be the dogmatic suggestion that noradrenergic input to vasopressin neurons is inhibitory, in one part of the text, whilst in another they describe the stimulation of vasopressin release following stimulation of noradrenergic afferents. There is also an excessive number of typographical errors (for example tobacco smoking results in nicotinic acid receptor stimulation!) My criticisms however are only minor and I should certainly commend this book to any department with an interest in clinical neuroendocrinology.

S LIGHTMAN

Molecular Neurobiology in Neurology and Psychiatry (*Research Publications: Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, Vol 65*). Edited by Eric R Kandel. (Pp 221; \$45.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1987.

The title of this volume is rather misleading, as is that of its preface, *Molecular Neurobiology and the Proper Study of Humankind* (sic). It is a collection of articles, based on a symposium, divided into three main sections: ion channels of nervous cells; regulation of transmitter release; and development and aging of the nervous system.

The first section includes contributions from Waxman (ion channels in myelinated nerve fibres), Rasminsky (spontaneous activity in pathological nerve fibres), Stroud (the acetylcholine receptor), and Drachman (myasthenia gravis). The second and third

sections are rather heterogeneous, including chapters on Huntington's disease, axonal transport in the squid giant axon, calcium dependent vesicle exocytosis, synaptogenesis, cell adhesion molecules, the cholinergic hypothesis in Alzheimer's disease, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, and a fascinating account of the neurobiology of short and long term memory by Kandel and colleagues.

Although the majority of the chapters in this book are good reviews, they do not add up to a very cohesive volume, and there is little here that has not been published elsewhere, as is nearly always the case with symposium proceedings. Despite the claims of the cover blurb writer, this volume does not really bring "the exciting discoveries of molecular neurobiology to bear on the clinical practice of neurology and psychiatry". I doubt that the book will find a wide clinical audience, although those wanting a neurobiological (in the broadest sense) refresher course will find it a useful pot-pourri.

AE HARDING

Motor Neurone Disease. Edited by GM Cochrane. Foreword by Sir John Walton. (Pp 104; £4.97.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This easily readable, short, book was commissioned by the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Great Britain and is aimed at family doctors and primary carers.

The book opens with a lucid chapter by R Greenhall describing the essentials of the disease. There is a useful account of the problems in communication and swallowing and the aids available by P Enderby and R Langton-Hewer. G M Cochrane excels in describing in detail the management of MND in the early and later stages.

The book is packed with useful information and practical and compassionate advice. Diets, management of bulbar symptoms and spasticity, terminal care, home gadgets, orthotics, home lifts, wheelchairs, social benefits, voluntary organisations available, and mobility aids are just some examples. In most cases specific models are quoted or, when appropriate, documentary reference is given. It will thus help professionals not involved routinely with these cases.

A few minor points should be considered in future editions. Except for the clear clinical photographs and the excellent section of

talking to the patient and family the contents of chapter 2 (*Diagnosis and Prognosis*) had already been covered by Chapter 1. Eosinophilic cytoplasmic inclusion bodies (Bunina) in anterior horn cells are one of the pathological features of MND (page 3). In table 1.2 (page 4) the incidence of MND per 2500 per year is 0.0375 (not 0.375) and the prevalence 0.125 (not 1.125).

The book should prove invaluable to family doctors, health visitors, social workers, nurses, dietitians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists who look after patients with MND. It also deserves a place in the neurologist's personal library. The Motor Neurone Disease Association is to be congratulated for commissioning a book that brings together much needed but dispersed information and Dr Cochrane and coauthors for implementing this initiative so well.

RJ GUILLOFF

Clinical Electromyography 4th ed. By JAR Lenman and AE Ritchie. Foreword by J Simpson. (Pp 218; £30.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This book is now in its fourth edition over some seventeen years. The format has remained much the same over this time; the aim of the authors, to give a comprehensive but not encyclopaedic outline of current wisdom and new methodology, has been sustained in this volume. The subject matter is confined to peripheral nerve and muscle electrophysiology. New techniques and their rationales, introduced since the last edition, are described. These descriptions are relatively uncritical and the reader is left to draw his own conclusions as to their relevance and application in the clinical electrophysiological setting. The early chapters deal with the electrophysiology of the normal subject and the scope and nature of electrical abnormalities that routine EMG can demonstrate in pathological states of nerve and muscle. The properties, usefulness and limitations of different electrode configurations are discussed. The chapter on quantitative methods in EMG is a pleasing summary of available techniques both old and new. There are useful short chapters on the electrical study of reflexes, intensity duration curves, accommodation measurements and intracellular recording. The chapter on nerve conduction velocity methods, with details of normal values and pitfalls in measurement is comprehensive.