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 work 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.

Eight chapters of the book are devoted to a consideration of the electrophysiological abnormalities in neuromuscular disease and can be particularly recommended for their clarity.

I have only a few reservations on this volume. The reader new to electrophysiology will have difficulty finding a clear statement as to the significance of demyelination in conduction velocity studies. The comments on the pathophysiology of myasthenia gravis are certainly out of date and the generalisation that acquired and hereditary myopathies share a similar EMG will find few adherents among clinical electrophysiologists.

These are, however, minor criticisms of what is undoubtedly a very informative text. It is not a lab manual but complimentary to such. It is an erudite introduction to the rationale and techniques of modern EMG and can be recommended to newcomers to the discipline and those who in requesting EMG examinations might wish to better understand the nature of the discipline, its capabilities and limitations.

JP BALLANTYNE

Infections of the Nervous System. Edited by Peter GE Kennedy and Richard T Johnson (Pp 284; £35.00.) Guildford: Butterworth Scientific, 1987.

Many of the senior neurologists in the United Kingdom clearly will remember *Modern Trends in Neurology* a Butterworth publication edited by Denis Williams which was, in its time, the only publication to describe what were the recent advances in the subject. Now, of course, there are many such publications not least of which is this, the successor to *Modern Trends*, *Butterworth's International Medical Reviews*, numbering 1-7.

This particular volume edited by Peter Kennedy and Richard Johnson is devoted to infections of the nervous system and it has been a pleasure to read it and review it, for it matches the standard set by its seven predecessors. The volume comprises 13 chapters in all, the 13th somewhat significantly devoted to the neurological problems of AIDS: infections in AIDS and other immunosuppressed patients. This is an excellent chapter and certainly more than adequately covers our current understanding of the neurological problems suffered by those who are HIV positive.

The editors hoped to highlight areas of the subjects where significant advances have been made and which have relevance to the treatment of patients. I feel in their choice of authors and the material selected by those authors, they have succeeded. There is an up to date account of acute bacterial meningitis which is comprehensive except that it fails to address itself to the problem of the partially suppressed and partially treated meningitis which even now is raising medical legal issues. Tuberculosis of the nervous system is very competently dealt with by Roman Kocen who addresses the question of treatment very clearly and argues the case against the use of steroids very cogently. The chapter on the spirochaetal infections of the nervous system includes a full consideration of the borrelioses, the relapsing fevers and Lyme disease. The chapter on botulism and tetanus written by John Griffin from the editor's University of Johns Hopkins, contains an up to date discussion of the pathogenesis of tetanus. Fungal diseases of the nervous system are reviewed and there is an excellent chapter on cerebral malaria arguing against the significance of cerebral oedema in producing the bad prognosis of falciparum infections.

In the chapter on acute viral meningitis and encephalitis the problem of herpes infection is given due emphasis and there is a very useful section on the dilemma of brain biopsy, the author favouring biopsy in any patient with an unknown encephalitis that may be due to herpes if the patient is seen early, if the signs and symptoms are severe and show clinical progression, and significantly, if the medical centre has the appropriate surgical facilities and a competent diagnostic viral laboratory. Unfortunately not all centres are so privileged and I feel today, most patients with suspected herpes encephalitis, will be treated with the anti-viral compound acyclovir, without biopsy. The author argues against the use of steroids in the acute phase of the disease but I feel his arguments are largely theoretical.

Peter Kennedy, the joint editor, considers the neurological complications of varicellazoster virus and whilst his chapter is comprehensive, I feel his discussion of management should require revision. His consideration of the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia is somewhat naive. We are told that the patient can be given cold packs to apply locally, we are told that surgical procedures may have to be considered in exceptionally severe cases but we are not told what surgical procedures are available and later the author advises us that they are

"best avoided in most patients since they make the pain worse". This is scarcely good advice to a clinician looking for help with the management of a severely afflicted patient. He goes on to say that severe cases frequently do not respond to treatment at all and himself favours a mixture of carbamazepine and an anti-depressant. He does not mention the possibility of use of vibrator or cooling spray and leaves us with considerable doubt as to what we should recommend for our patients.

The subject of postinfectious encephalomyelitis is dealt with by Richard Johnson with the authority and broad understanding of the subject which one has come to associate with his writing. The slow virus infections are considered by Brian Matthews with an emphasis on their epidemiology which of course has been a particular interest of his.

JB FOSTER

Notices

International Child Neurology Association. The 5th Congress will be held in Chiba, Japan, 4-10 November 1990. Information may be obtained from the Secretariat, c/o Simul International Inc., Kowa Building No 9, 8-10, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, Japan.

The Fulton Society. The Fourteenth International Symposium (on the Neurobiology of Brain Implants) will be held in New Delhi, October 1989. Information may be obtained from Prof Dr Victor Soriano, Calle Buenos Aires 363, Montevideo, Uruguay.