Book reviews

in chorionic material of the gene linkages for Duchenne dystrophy. Ten per cent of epilepsies have a defined genetic basis; the "epilepsy genes" are pleomorphic and outnumber their electroencephalographic phenotypes. We are instructed how to estimate the familial risks in various epilepsy syndromes. There is a helpful essay on the neuroimmunology of multiple sclerosis. MRI is discussed as a tool for both brain imaging and spectroscopic analysis of brain metabolism. Current reviews of Alzheimer's disease, cerebrovascular disease, infective peripheral neuropathies, including HIV and Lyme disease, myoclonus and inherited biotin-dependent diseases are provided.

The book blends useful if somewhat patchy clinical reviews with fundamental recent research. It is well produced and, on the whole, well written. Neurosciences have progressed rapidly in the last decade and the reviewer was filled with a sense of inadequacy in attempting to understand the details and the complexities of some modern techniques. A clinical neurologist seeking a concise refresher course, could fare worse than scrutinising these chapters. It is a book which if studied slowly and carefully, will more than repay the effort. But, it is not easy going.

JMS PEARCE

Recurrent and Chronic Psychoses (*British Medical Bulletin* Vol 43: No 3). Edited by TJ Crow. (Pp 766; £20.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1987.

The 17 chapters in this volume of the *British Medical Bulletin* have been assembled into the traditional pattern of medical texts, with sections on the history, diagnostic criteria, epidemiology, aetiology, clinical investigations, treatment and outcome of the psychoses supplemented by chapters pertaining to the social implications of these disorders.

The list of authors reads rather like a British who's-who in research into schizophrenia and affective disorders. The majority of the chapters are clearly written with the opinions of the authors openly expressed. It will be an invaluable source book for those who need authoritative statements to reproduce in postgraduate exams and for those whose research and clinical interests require them to keep abreast of recent developments.

The British Council and the committee who planned this volume are to be commended for producing such an informative, and

yet inexpensive text which should be on the shelves of all with an interest in mental disorders.

JANET TREASURE

Virus Infections and the Developing Nervous System. Edited by RT Johnson and G Lyon. (Pp 162; £35.00.) Dordrecht: MTP Press. 1988.

Twenty-nine authors contribute to this strange patchwork of a book. Dr Johnson's overview is very similar to the chapter of almost the same title in his marvellous single author book *Viral Infections of the Nervous System*. Reovirus, rarely a cause of disease in man, provides a useful model for studying invasion and neurotropism in mice. The molecular characterisation of the capsid protein, its gene and the receptor on the neuron, the interactions between which appear responsible for neurotropism, is well under way. JC virus, responsible for progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, appears, again in the mouse, to arrest the development of certain oligodendrocytes. This provides an attractive explanation for mechanisms of demyelination, as well as a model for its further exploration. Bovine leukaemia virus infection is offered as a suitable model for studying mechanisms of cell (lymphocyte) oncogenic transformation. Once again this is explored in gene molecular terms. The clinical and neuropathological features of HIV infection in children are described together with suggestions concerning its ability to produce immunodeficiency whilst remaining relatively latent. If the lymphocytic choriomeningitis (LCM) virus infects the perinatal mouse, virus replication ensues throughout a normal life span without damage to the host. In the adult, LCM infection usually causes illness and often death. This is a convenient model for examining the mechanisms allowing carrier status. Once again the T lymphocyte appears to play a vital role. Some apparently preliminary work of the susceptibility particularly of neuronal and muscle tissue to the murine leukaemia virus and of the feasibility of studying herpes simplex in foetal neuronal cultures is presented. A closely argued but short chapter suggests that the major envelope glycoprotein of the cytomegalovirus might provide a useful subunit vaccine against this important organism. An extensively referenced chapter on rubella virus, its structure and clinical effects follows. The biology of mumps and coronavirus infections are not forgotten in the final chapters.

There is no particular overall scheme or argument in this book. Each chapter stands on its own. Much of it is work in progress, using either in vitro or animal models. With the exception perhaps of Epstein-Barr virus and arboviruses most viruses of immediate clinical relevance are discussed. It is an expensive book for its size. Whilst it is of course work of this nature that will give us the tools for treating infections caused by these viruses, it is largely experimental virologists and well motivated (and funded) clinical virologists who will wish to buy this book.

RO ROBINSON

Facial Dyskinesias (*Advances in Neurology, Vol 49.*) Edited by Joseph Jankovic, Eduardo Tolosa. (Pp 560; \$121.50.) New York: Raven Press. 1988.

Five hundred odd pages on facial dyskinesias may seem a lot but there is no other book specifically on this subject. Such disorders are, of course, not rare, can be disabling and are almost always exquisitely embarrassing for the patient so their emergence as a subspecialty of movement disorders is justifiable. This volume starts with an excellent overview by Jankovic. This leads into a welcome review of the anatomy of the facial muscles, knowledge of which is crucial to the proper treatment of blepharospasm. The physiology of blinking is discussed and there is also an interesting chapter on ophthalmological causes of blepharospasm which will be welcome to neurologists; both emphasise the probable importance of the afferent system, otherwise easily and wrongly placed in a subservient position when discussing the movement disorders. There are several good chapters on blepharospasm, Meige's syndrome and lid apraxia with a welcome article from the patient's perspective. Hemifacial spasm, facial synkinesis, bruxism, head and voice tremors, epileptic facial movements and torticollis are all well and interestingly discussed. There is a delightful chapter by Lees on facial mannerisms and tics. There are reviews of the chronic known effects of neuroleptic treatment and discussions on dopaminergic and cholinergic aspects of dystonia. Treatment with botulinus toxin is a feature of several chapters and there is also a chapter on treating blepharospasm by myectomy. There is relatively little on possible aetiologies of these conditions though there is an interesting contribution by Jankovic