genetics in the mitochondrial cytopathies was perhaps a little sketchy and the pedestrian contributions on management were irrelevant to an otherwise first class resumé of the "state of the art". It is a worthy successor to the previous BMB on the "dystrophies" and it rates as an essential bench book for all those, clinicians or otherwise, who deal with these disorders.

P HUDGSON

Quantification of neurologic deficit. By T L MUNSAT. (Pp 357; Price: £51.00.) Butterworth Scientific Ltd. 1989. ISBN 0-409-90152-0 Hardback.

The increasing availability of effective or potential treatments for neurological disorders implies, firstly, a new attentiveness by neurologists to clinical outcome and, secondly, the need for measures of outcome. Indeed a first ever session was devoted to this issue at the recent ABN/SBNS meeting in Bristol. There is confusion about what to quantify—even about the descriptions used for different aspects of neurological illness: yet the terms "impairment", "disability" and "handicap" which form the basis of much current thinking in this area gained working definitions a decade ago. The sophistication of laboratory, imaging and physiological techniques for understanding neurological disease has not been matched by our ability to measure what is "going on" with our patients, an elementary consideration dealt with more thoroughly by clinical psychologists, speech therapists and other paramedical specialties despite the seemingly less tangible nature of their interests. The pressing need for effective medical audit is a further spur to action in this area.

Against this background Professor Munsat's book is timely. It represents the rather late publication of a Workshop in 1986. The first section is on Principles and Methodology with two chapters on statistical considerations. The second part deals with clinical applications. Strength, fatigue, ambulation, and sensory testing are covered in depth and there are chapters on quantification in multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease, dystonia, and developmental disorders.

Inevitably some of the chapters are written from a specific research perspective and are thus not reviews but report particular experimental systems. However several do review available methods and make comparisons. Clearly there is no simple solution as to how to "measure" multiple sclerosis for example: yet, for the reviewer, the book highlights the fact that patients suffer from impairments, disabilities and handicaps—the secondary effects of disease processes. On the one hand there is a need to quantify the specifics associated with particular diseases but on the other, unless we are to be inundated with individual scales for every condition (which surely will then never enter clinical practice), common manifestations of neurological disorder must surely be amenable to general methods of measurement preferably on interval scales.

This is an interesting book which, not surprisingly, provokes more questions than it answers. Those who have an interest in measurement of disability will find useful guidance as to how colleagues around the

world view these problems and the relative poverty of the present range of solutions.

C M WILES

The Neurobiology of Memory: Concepts, Findings, Trends. By Y DUDAI. (Pp 340; Price: £18.00 Paperback, £40.00 Hardback). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989.

A number of conceptual problems have dogged the historical heels of neuropsychology. A severe form of reductionism has abandoned psychological explanations in favour of neurophysiological analysis, and hierarchical boundaries of descriptive analysis have been transgressed. The reification of mental processes as the "mind" has relegated brain structure and function to the status of a "black box". This thoughtful volume represents an attempt to overcome these theoretical hurdles by clearly stating the overall philosophy of the study and offering a descriptive multi-level analysis of the process of learning in terms of the organism, organ, neuronal circuit, cell and molecule. The neuro-scientist is brought up to date on work in a wide range of related fields of enquiry, both in man and lower animals and is entertained by the lucid style and pleased by the attractively displayed text and illustrations. A book for the neuropsychologist and the neurological general reader, especially in the reasonably priced paperback form.

DAVID NEARY

DSM-III-R Case Book (Revised Edition). By R L SPITZER, M GIBBON, A E SKODOL, J B W WILLIAMS, M B FIRST. (Pp 515; Price: £19.50 P/b.) Cambridge University Press. 1989. ISBN 0-88048-161-7.

DSM-III was accompanied by a Case Book which sold 19 000 copies and made a fine profit for the American Psychiatric Association. It was inevitable, therefore, that DSM-III-R should also have a Case Book also derived from its predecessor. It consists of 257 clinical vignettes, all based on real patients and covering nearly all the diagnostic categories recognised in DSM-III-R, each of them accompanied by a discussion of the differential diagnosis according to that classification.

DSM-III-R is not a particularly important classification. It will soon be superseded by DSM-IV and British and other European psychiatrists are already committed to using the International Classification, whose 10th revision is now available at least in samizdat. Even so this Case Book is worth browsing through. It contains a remarkable variety of fairly genuine case histories, the diagnostic commentaries are sensible and not too magisterial, and the two together provide a useful insight into the strengths and limitations of the categories and definitions of DSM-III-R. The International and Historical cases are particularly valuable in this regard, as well as telling you what DSM-III-R, and Dr Spitzer and his colleagues make of High Judge Schreber, Anna O and the psychotic experiences of Xhosa farmers and Columbian schoolgirls.

R E KENDELL

SHORT NOTICES

Myotonic Dystrophy. 2nd edition. (Major Problems in Neurology Series Vol 21). By: PETER S HARPER. (Pp 384; Price £40.00). London, W B Saunders, 1989. ISBN 0-7020-1363-1.

The first edition of this the most thorough treatise on the subject was exhausted at an early date. This welcomed second edition is a well illustrated and comprehensively referenced review of the many clinical facets and laboratory findings. Harper's contributions to gene mapping, molecular genetics and family counselling are developed in the final chapters. Neurologists, paediatricians, and geneticists need a personal copy of this excellent volume.

Textbook of Head Injury. By: DONALD P BECKER AND STEVEN K GUDEMAN. (Pp 553; Price: £100.00 hardback). Philadelphia, London, W B Saunders, 1989. ISBN 0-7216-1614-3.

The management and prognosis of head injured patients have changed in the last 20 years. Advances in brain imaging, intracranial pressure and blood flow studies have improved monitoring during the crucial early phase. Systematic clinical trials of standardised treatments, based on the various Glasgow scales have produced better guidelines and prognostic data. Basic science research of mechanisms of neural disruption and repair have been of interest but of limited application – being based mainly on crude experimental animal models. This beautifully produced text reviews all these topics in detail and will be indispensable to Neurosurgeons and those neuroscientists who are called on to assess the after effects of head injured patients.

The 1989 Neuro-Computing Bibliography. 2nd edition. Edited by C C KLIMASAUSKAS. (Pp 623; Price: £49.50.) London: MIT Press, 1989. ISBN 0-262-11134-9.

Ecstasy, The Clinical, Pharmacological and Neurotoxicological Effects of the Drug MDMA. Edited by S J PEROUTKA. (Pp 244; Price: £63.25.) Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic, 1989. ISBN 0-7923-0305-9.

Chemical senses. Vol. 2: Irritation. Edited by B S GREEN, J R MASON, AND M R KARE. (Pp 361 Illustrated; Price: \$99.75 (US and Canada) \$119.50 (All other countries). New York, Marcel Dekker Inc. 1990 ISBN 0-8247-8323-9.

Problems in Differential Diagnosis: From DSM-III to DSM-III-R in Clinical Practice. By A E SKODOL. (Pp 535; Price: £32.50 Hardback) Cambridge University Press, 1989. ISBN 0-88044-044-0.