culitic neuropathies. The text is notably successful in remaining up to date, with balanced accounts of the relationships between GQ1b antibodies and Miller Fisher syndrome, and between *Campylobacter jejuni* et *coli*, ganglioside antibodies, and neuropathy. Clear and up-to-the-minute treatment guidelines emerge from analyses of recent therapeutic trials for both CIDP and Guillain-Barré syndrome. Difficult and contentious issues are not avoided, such as the relationships between CIDP and demyelinating neuropathy in the context of paraproteinaemia, and between multifocal motor neuropathy and CIDP. Unusually, excessive repetition is avoided.

In such a book as this, to criticise is little more than carping, but one or two shortcomings are apparent. It is mentioned, that "the main drawbacks of plasma exchange treatment [include] contraindications," and that these amount to approximately 8% of cases, but what these are is not described. The entity of multifocal motor neuropathy with conduction block might more helpfully have been included in a clinical chapter rather than the immunological section. The recent and increasingly widely accepted classification of vasculitic disorders according to the size of the vessel involved is not included, and there is no mention of the pathologically important feature of leucocytoclastic change in vasculitis. Some of the running head titles are less than helpful.

These are quibbles. Large series of undiagnosed neuropathies consistently indicate that further investigation reveals an inflammatory aetiology in 20-25% of cases, findings which emphasise clearly the need to stay abreast of these important and often under diagnosed disorders. *Inflammatory Neuropathies* is up to date in a way that major conventional text books cannot emulate; it is concise, readable and affordable. It is highly recommended.

NEIL SCOLDING

Handbook of Myasthenia Gravis and Myasthenic Syndromes. Edited by ROBERT P LISAK. Published by Marcel Dekker Inc, New York 1994. (Pp 421; \$150.00.) ISBN 0-8247-8825-7.

Every practicing neurologist should have access to this excellent tome. It contains a great deal of detail on many aspects of myasthenia which is generally accessible, well set out and extensively referenced. Of the 19 chapters, there are those concerned with diagnosis, immunology, electrophysiology, pathogenesis and treatment of myasthenia gravis. But for me, the best sections were those by Andrew Engel on congenital myasthenic syndromes and that by Elrongtin and Newsom-Davis on the Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome. There is also a very useful table of medications implicated in human drug-induced neuromuscular disorders, containing information both on clinical presentations and mechanisms of action.

In such a multi-author volume it is inevitable that some repetition and controversy surfaces. Although most of these points are minor, I believe that many practitioners would take issue with Robert Sergott's suggestion that anticholinesterase medication is quite unsuccessful in ocular myasthenia. There is also precious little epi-

demiological information in the book, and readers searching for this are better advised to consult the recent issue of *Neurologic Clinics*, which is also concerned with myasthenia.

But these issues are minor in the overall context of an authoritative and enjoyable read.

JOHN ZAJICEK

EEG in Clinical Practice, Second Edition. Edited by JOHN R HUGHES. Published by Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1994. (Pp 242; £45.00.) ISBN 0-7506-9511-0.

This is an introductory text of about 200 pages with more than 200 references, written by a neurologist with considerable experience in the basic principles of the EEG and its clinical application. It contains an accessible description of the physics of EEG acquisition and of the resultant wave forms. The clinical section is necessarily concise for the size of book. Some important points are highlighted in capitals which is probably unnecessary for most readers. There is a final chapter covering topics of special interest which includes a North American view of medico-legal aspects. For neurologists in training, therefore, this provides a simple and brief introduction to the basic principles of EEG.

SIMON BONIFACE

The Aids Knowledge Base. Edited by P T COHEN, MERLE A SANDE and PAUL A VOLBERDING. Published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston 1994. (Pp1552; \$125.00.) ISBN 0-316-77067-1.

It is always a pleasure to read a textbook that has obviously been written by practising clinicians with hands-on experience of their subject matter. This book comes from an institution that has seen an enormous quantity of HIV disease, and provides a comprehensive yet readable reference source which rarely strays from being genuinely useful.

The book as a whole is well structured; apart from dealing with every aspect of the general management of HIV patients, specific opportunistic infections and malignancies, there are sections on global epidemiology and preventative, legal and ethical issues. There is also a concise and well written account of the molecular virology of HIV with sufficient detail to allow the "non-molecular" clinician to understand issues of pathogenesis, antiretroviral therapy and vaccine design. The quality of individual chapters and articles is very high; in particular they are rarely overlong, so that it is easy to find answers to specific clinical questions. Some of the material on legal and economic issues is specific to the United States, but this represents a very small proportion of the book; the sections on prevention, education and ethical issues contain much that is relevant to British or European patients.

Colour plates in textbooks can be unhelpful and disappointing, but this book provides an exception with a small collection of clear and genuinely useful pho-

tographs. The remainder of the text is singularly lacking in illustrations. Personally I welcome this move away from the trend towards "Art for art's sake" in medical publication, and back to the presentation of relevant and up to date information in a digestible and systematic format! There are other smaller and cheaper books that deal with the clinical care of HIV patients as well as this book does (in particular *The Medical Management of AIDS* from the same authors), but this new volume is comprehensive, readable and well referenced, and I look forward to using it.

DAVID WILKS

Human Behaviour—An Introduction for Medical Students, Second Edition. By ALAN STOUDEMIRE. (Pp 496.) Published by J B Lippincott Company, Philadelphia 1994. ISBN 0-397-51337-2.

This multi-authored American textbook sets out to address the imbalance which the editor believes is present in the teaching of today's medical students, namely, that in contrast to the large amount of scientific information to be learnt regarding disease processes, there is little time allocated to teaching students fundamental principles of human behaviour and psychological aspects of patient care.

The book concentrates on five areas of interest. Early chapters discuss issues regarding the doctor-patient relationship and are helpfully illustrated with case histories. Important issues such as the role of stress, culture and ethnicity are discussed clearly and concisely. The second section of the book introduces the two major schools of psychological theories of human behaviour: psychoanalytical and behavioural. Section three describes normal human development through the life-cycle and includes excellent chapters on adolescence and the family. The penultimate section is an introduction to the biological basis of human behaviour and psychiatry. These comprehensive and excellent chapters are said to be a "prodrome to the concluding chapter" entitled "Supportive psychological care of the medically ill: A synthesis of the biopsychosocial approach in medical care". It is a pity, therefore that this chapter works less well. After such depth and erudition in earlier chapters it seems somewhat superficial by contrast, perhaps reflecting the rather early stage in the development of "a true psychobiological integration of the behavioural sciences".

This book provides an excellent introduction to human behaviour for medical students but also has much to offer junior psychiatrists and allied mental health professionals.

CAROL GREGORY

Cerebral SPECT Imaging, Second Edition. Edited by RONALD L VAN HEERTUM and RONALD S TIKOFFSKY. (Pp 233 \$176.50). Published by Raven Press, New York 1994. ISBN 0-7817-0188-0.

It has become clear that structural and functional imaging are complementary in

the investigation of many cerebral disorders. PET's expense and limited availability restrict its use to research. The advent of SPECT, however, allows functional imaging to be provided as a clinical service in most neurological centres. Indeed, one might advocate that investigation of cerebral pathology is not complete without both structural and functional imaging. This upsurge of interest in SPECT is reflected by the second edition of this multi-author American text.

The first section is a general overview, including technical aspects. There are useful sections on correlating SPECT images with both structural anatomy and neuropsychological function.

The bulk of the text takes a disease-oriented approach, focusing on cerebrovascular disease, dementia, epilepsy, trauma, psychiatric and other conditions. Each chapter starts with a brief summary of the use of SPECT in the field. However, most of the chapter comprises selected cases in which the clinical history is matched with the relevant SPECT scan, accompanied by a teaching point.

Only a few of the images display the current state-of-the-art resolution now possible with SPECT. However, the bulk of the images are representative of those provided by the typical nuclear medicine department, and hence are of practical benefit to the clinician.

This is an excellent introduction to SPECT imaging, and will be of use to the clinical neurologist. Rather than representing the cutting edge of SPECT research, it is more of a practical clinical aid which will not only help clinicians understand SPECT images, but also inform them of SPECT's potential as a clinical tool.

JOHN DW GREENE

Magnetic Resonance Scanning and Epilepsy. Edited by S D SHORVON, D R FISH, F ANDERMANN, G M BYDDER and H STEFAN. (Pp 323 \$95). Published by Plenum Press, New York 1994. ISBN 0-306-44735-5.

No one can doubt the already substantial impact of magnetic resonance technology in the field of epilepsy or its enormous potential for the future. Within a very short period of time MR imaging has established itself as the method of choice for the investigation of people with epilepsy and an essential part of pre-surgical evaluation. As yet, we are only at the beginning of development in the fields of spectroscopy, volumetry and MR studies of brain activation, all of which could further both our understanding of the basic mechanisms of the epilepsies and their clinical management. A volume covering this area, therefore, should be welcome and timely.

The aim of the book is to review the current position of MR imaging and spectroscopy in epilepsy, to summarise current research, and to indicate the likely direction of future research. It contains no less than 53 separate contributions within 300 pages, a fact that illustrates that many of these are extremely short, superficial, and repetitive of one another. The book is divided into introductory chapters, and sections on imaging in temporal lobe epilepsy, on

cortical dysgenesis, on correlative techniques with other investigations, on MR in lesional epilepsy syndromes, and on MR spectroscopy.

Whilst there are some worthwhile contributions within the plethora of articles, the reader is left with the impression that the volume has been thrown together rapidly without much consideration for a coherent overall strategy or the fine detail of the contributions. The volume emphasises that the publication of the proceedings of symposia rarely come together to form a very worthwhile publication. It may well be that the discussions that took place within the workshop sponsored by the NATO science committee were worthwhile and stimulating for the participants. However, they seem to have been unwilling to give too much thought to those manuscripts that they were told, I am sure, to bring with them to the meeting in order to have their expenses paid!

Readers in the area will, I am sure, be best advised to await the publication of a more satisfactory volume for which there remains a considerable need.

DAVID CHADWICK

Motor Development in Children. Edited by E FEDRIZZI, G ANAZINI and P CRENNNA. (Pp 185 £32). Published by John Libbey and Co, London 1994. ISBN 0-86196-448-9.

Take any traditional neuropaediatric tome from its shelf and you will find an opening chapter on the examination of the developing child. Its point of departure will be a complex series of primitive reflexes, on the unspoken assumption that these direct the newborn's activity. This view is changing, and I read this monograph, the result of a postgraduate teaching course in Milan in 1993, with some excitement.

Neurological prognosis has been difficult in the neonate, partly because of our reliance on interpretation of reflexes and their rate of disappearance. But it is argued persuasively in Chapter 2 that the assessment by eye (and video) of the quality of a new baby's movements in fact allows early and accurate prediction.

This is refreshing as is the general view that a baby's motor activities are not just defective adult ones. Some chapters persist in extrapolating from damaged adult brains in their interpretation of developing motor systems, but for the most part the book stresses that a child's motor behaviours are superbly adapted for its needs at different stages of life. This theme runs through chapters on reaching, grasping, fine motor skills, posture, balance, visual development and more.

There is valuable information in this book and the opening chapter is one of the best accounts that I have seen of the embryology of the brain. But the quality is variable. Some chapters are clear while others are difficult to decipher; some are research papers, others review articles. There is repetition in the extensive coverage of vision. However, if you are inclined to dip, you will find much to interest you, and most of the book is very good.

REBECCA AYLWARD

Movement Control. Edited by PAUL CORDO AND STEVAN HARNAD. (Pp 275 £45). CUP 1994. ISBN 0-521-45241-4.

In the 17 years since it was founded, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* has established a strong reputation as a peer commentary journal with topics ranging widely over the neurosciences. In 1992, the new direction was taken of devoting a whole issue of the journal to the first in a series of annual conferences on Controversies in Neuroscience. The conference, which actually took place two years earlier, had as its focus Movement Control and was organised around eight major target papers, each of which received a dozen or so short commentaries. Subsequently, the journal editor (Stevan Harnad) and conference organiser (Paul Cordo) decided to make the special issue available, with only minor modifications, as a separate publication.

The result is a book with the first quarter devoted to overviews of current issues by a number of leading researchers followed by nearly 100 commentaries by equally well-known scientists. The book concludes with short, integrative responses to the commentaries, which I found to be the best place to start reading. There follows a reference list with over 1500 entries, an author citation list (headed by Feldman's 1986 *Journal of Motor Behavior* paper—clearly approaching classic status), and an overly brief index.

In book form, this collection of papers will undoubtedly help disseminate important current ideas in motor control to a wider audience. The editors also suggest the book might be a useful graduate-level teaching text. I find this idea somewhat doubtful because: (1) the material is 4 years old (2) the coverage is not comprehensive (3) the regrouping of the commentaries separate from the target papers to which they refer makes it difficult to follow ideas through 'despite the editors' provision of a directory Table of Commentators (curiously buried in the middle of the book so that I initially missed it). Nor does the book strike me as of immediate clinical relevance. Nonetheless, given the low cost (with nearly 150 authors, the hardback price of £45 in the UK makes it a bargain at around 30 pence per author), it would seem appropriate to recommend this book on grounds of good value general interest reading.

ALAN WING

Molecular and Cell Biology of Neuropsychiatric Diseases. Edited by FRANK OWEN AND RUTH ITZHAKI. (Pp 201 £45). Published by Chapman and Hall, London 1993. ISBN 0-412-47800-5.

An understanding of the power of a molecular genetic approach to understanding both the aetiology of neurological disease and knowledge of the clinical applications of this information are becoming increasingly important for the practising neurologist and psychiatrist. As an introduction this book unfortunately, however, gives only limited help to those unfamiliar with the techniques, and misses the opportunity to