

the use of one pharmacological agent, the specificity of which may be in doubt.

Some co-ordinating introductory or summarising chapter would have enhanced the appeal of the book. Many of the contributions are pharmacological and involved with pathway mapping in selected brain regions. The papers dealing specifically with neurotransmitter interactions are in the minority. Among valuable contributions to this are the chapters on interactions between pathways involving acetylcholine and catecholamines, and particularly the emphasis on a non-passive role for dendrites in neurotransmission. One small irritation is the contribution to jargon: terms such as "GABAergic" and "peptidergic" should be avoided.

Many of the chapters will prove of interest to neuropharmacologists rather than biochemists or physiologists, and I doubt if the book has much appeal for the clinician.

H. S. BACHELARD

Progress in Clinical Neurophysiology Volume 1—Attention, Voluntary Contraction and Event-Related Cerebral Potentials. Volume 2—Auditory Evoked Potentials in Man. Psychopharmacology Correlates of Evoked Potentials Edited by J. E. Desmedt. (Pp. 256 (vol. 1), 212 (vol. 2); illustrated; DM 98, \$37.75 per volume.) S. Karger: Basel, 1977.

With some notable exceptions, epilepsy and leucoencephalopathies, most neurologists and psychiatrists will admit to disappointment with the clinical application of electroencephalography, and many have advocated closer study of stimulus-response relationships of the EEG. It is, accordingly, frustrating to the many clinical neurologists active in this field that the major advances of the last decade are largely unfamiliar to the clinicians apart from the recent acceptance of latency prolongation of visual evoked potentials in the diagnosis of retrobulbar neuritis. The impossibility of keeping abreast with the literature during its formative years is certainly a reason for this paradox, though the bibliography of the books noticed here makes it clear that most of the useful papers have appeared in *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology*. (They are rarely offered to this Journal though we would welcome a

state-of-the-art review for clinicians.) Clearly the time has come to review the event-related potentials of the brain. Professor Desmedt of Brussels is to be congratulated for undertaking the difficult task of editing a series under the general title of *Progress in Clinical Neurophysiology*, and the first two volumes augur well for its future. Volume 1 is concerned with the neurophysiological mechanisms underlying selective attention, slow potential shifts in the brain, and the cerebral potentials associated with voluntary movements. The chapters are, by and large, contributions of personal studies rather than the reviews anticipated. They are all worth reading but give the impression of expanded symposium proceedings, and one is left in some doubt regarding the borderline between accepted fact and speculation. Editorial policy seems tentative—for instance, the useful introductory chapter on publication criteria is regularly flouted in later chapters, and a footnote on the first page of volume 2 (use of "potential" and "response") is ignored three pages later and in subsequent chapters. Nevertheless, volume 2 gives a better impression of planned contributions. The studies on auditory evoked potentials are already accepted as clinically relevant, and the later chapters on psychopharmacology offer great hope for the future.

These books are difficult to read seriatim, and yet are not quite systematic enough to use for occasional reference. Nevertheless, they are welcome as a survey of new thinking in a branch of clinical neurophysiology which had become static. We must look forward eagerly to the seven volumes which are to follow. Perhaps at an early stage we could have a glossary of the many unfamiliar abbreviations.

J. A. SIMPSON

The Peripheral Nerve Edited by D. N. Landon. (Pp. 836; illustrated; £25.00.) Chapman and Hall: London, 1976.

The aim of this volume is to collate and systematise present knowledge of structure and function, development and pathology, recent research and technical innovations in the mammalian peripheral nervous system. More than half the book is devoted to a detailed consideration of the macro, micro, and intracellular structure of the peripheral motor and sensory nerve fibres and

autonomic ganglia, their processes and integuments. Successive chapters deal with myelinated axons, unmyelinated axons, sensory ganglia, the perineurium and connected tissue of peripheral nerve, the functional anatomy of the anterior horn cells, spinal and cranial nerve roots, and autonomic nervous system. The peripheral terminations of sensory and motor factors are discussed in two separate chapters. In view of the interest in the functional anatomy of the motor nerve terminals, two separate chapters are devoted to the structure and function of the endplates. All this is contained in the first 500 pages of the book, and the remaining 300 pages are devoted to presentation of the chemistry of myelin, the histochemistry of peripheral nerve terminals, and a penultimate chapter on the pathophysiology of the peripheral nervous system. The final 70 pages present a critical analysis of the electrophysiological properties of peripheral nerves with particular reference to the mechanisms of generation and propagation of the action potential.

Each chapter in this book is a concise and compact review of present knowledge and can certainly be usefully used as a reference book of peripheral nerve anatomy in particular. It is well illustrated, the illustrations and photographic reproductions being of very high quality. This book will be particularly useful to the postgraduate student researching the peripheral nervous system but no less so to the established worker in the field as a reference volume. It can be thoroughly recommended.

J. P. BALLANTYNE

Immunosuppressive Treatment Multiple Sclerosis Edited by H. Delmotte, O. R. Hommes, and G. Gonsette. (Pp. 224; illustrated; price not stated.) European Press: Gembloux, Belgium, 1977.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease of which the aetiology is unknown but there is some circumstantial evidence to suggest that it may have an immunopathological basis. There has now appeared a large number of very poorly carried out clinical trials of immunosuppressive treatment in multiple sclerosis. The duration of such trials, the selection of patients, the absence of adequate and proper controls, and the methods