great knowledge of bladder disorders. Many neurologists regard the nervous control of the bladder as a fairly mysterious subject and they will be relieved to learn such is also the opinion of many urologists. Measurement is a fundamental requirement for understanding, but the nervous control of the bladder seems not to have been greatly enlightened, at least thus far, by the availability of accurate measurements of bladder and urethral pressures, and urine flow rate during voiding. The role of the autonomic and somatic nervous systems in the control of continence and voiding remains controversial and ill understood and much of the controversy discussed in the book reflects this lack of basic understanding. Even the classification of voiding disorders reflects fundamental ignorance and the chapter on pharmacological aspects is refreshingly frank in its admission of the failure of modern pharmacology to find effective methods of managing detrusor instability and minor degrees of incontinence, despite a large and expanding literature on this subject.

The early chapters are concerned more with the methodology and interpretation of cystometrograms, videocystometrograms, urethral pressure profiles, and EMG of the urethral striated sphincter muscle and it is clear that there is yet much to be learned from developments of these techniques in clinical practice. The neurological reader will be struck by the relative absence of reference to the results of careful investigations of patients with defined neurological lesions, since this would seem to offer a way of approaching the more common and equally ill-understood disorders of continence believed not to be due to disorders of the nervous system. All things considered this is a much better introduction to the understanding of urinary continence, and the neurology of the bladder, than most books setting out to discuss these problems in monograph format. Most of the chapters are well referenced and the book is generally attractively produced and well illustrated. Despite the title there is a conspicuous poverty of neurologists amongst the contributors. Perhaps this explains our ignorance of this subject!

MICHAEL SWASH

Introductory Neurology. By James G McLeod and James W Lance. (Pp 276; £9-80.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1983.

The preface to this useful volume states

"the present book is designed to help the undergraduate medical student relate already acquired knowledge of the basic neurological sciences to the examination of the patient and to diseases of the nervous system. There has been no attempt to discuss in detail all the conditions seen by a neurologist and their treatment since there are many excellent comprehensive books readily available which can and should be consulted". Though I find this book the most useful book to date for medical students by virtue of this approach, the clarity of the authors' style, and the use of diagrams, it still, in my opinion, contains too much detailed information for the average medical student.

With this comment, I shall recommend the volume, which is appropriately priced, to medical students without hesitation.

IMS WILKINSON

Clinical Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation. Edited by Jeffrey S Mannheimer and Gerald N Lampe. (Pp 636; \$46.25.) Philadelphia: FA Davis Co. UK Distrib: Quest Publishing Agency, 1984.

This book bears some resemblance to a Sunday newspaper: it is large, easy to read, comparatively inexpensive and extensively illustrated. Unfortunately the resemblance does not end there: much of the content is superficial or oversimplified, and it is hard to see who would really benefit from it despite its aim to be "a comprehensive text on pain management that emphasizes the adjunctive role and limitations of one modality within the available armamentarium of the informed clinician". The title is misleading; whilst it surely implies the contents are related or relevant to the technique of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, in fact little in the field of pain escapes attention. There are chapters from the six contributors dealing with neurophysiology, psychology, structures in the "neuromusculoskeletal" system producing pain, consideration of numerous painful conditions, and so on. Some of these topics appear very out of place, whilst others such as a useful discussion on tender points are certainly pertinent.

The book is at its best when it deals with the subject in hand, and useful sections include the history of electrical stimulation, electrode placement techniques, varieties of electrodes and machines, types of stimulation, and precautions and contraindications. It is pleasing to see extravagant claims are not made for TENS; for

instance, few would disagree that electrical stimulation is rarely of use for thalamic pain. Although there are hundreds of references, some interesting and unusual, others banal and merely references to standard textbooks, this is not the authoritative book to be consulted for its basic scientific content. Moreover it is probable that much of the information on electrical stimulation is better and more quickly learnt by practical experience in this essentially practical field. Nevertheless, like a Sunday newspaper, perusal will sometimes reveal information of real interest which would be hard to obtain elsewhere.

GD SCHOTT

Proceedings of the International Workshop: New Trends in Multiple Sclerosis Research March 27-28 1982. Edited by CL Cazzullo, D Caputo and A Ghezzi. (Pp 153; £20-00.) Milan: Masson, 1983.

This short volume reports the Proceedings of the International Workshop: New Trends in Multiple Sclerosis Research held in Gallarate in March 1982. Our Italian colleagues have kindly translated into English their work and views of the state of the art at that time. Thanks to an agreement between Gallarate Hospital and Milan University the Italians have access to 2,400 patients who are being studied with the usual immunological, virological and epidemiological techniques. Reviews of lymphocyte subpopulations, CSF immunoglobulins and the controversial E-UFA test are provided by Arnason, Delmotte and Field, as invited guest speakers. The passage of time leaves the inevitable impression that in 1984 these pages are valuable only as a historical record of the occasion.

RAC HUGHES