a specific test involving cell motility in an electrical field.

Following a description of the pathophysiology of the disorder, there is a review of treatment which includes a consideration of immunotherapy, plasmapheresis, dietary treatments, anti-infective treatment and the recently controversial use of hyperbaric oxygen. The clinical trials involved in assessing these various treatments are critically reviewed and Matthews considers the means of managing specific symptoms arising in the course of the disease, that is, psychological problems, tremor, spasticity and others. The book finishes with two elegant chapters on current views of the immunological and the genetic aspects of the disorder and the neuropathology of the disease.

Beautifully produced and well-indexed this volume is essential for all those involved in clinical neurology and with the investigation of the problems of multiple sclerosis. Hopefully in years to come further editions will keep us equally up to date with developments and an improved understanding of multiple sclerosis but here with the 1985 volume we have as good a review of the problem as exists in the world literature.

RA JOHNSTON


This American book provides a welcome change from the usual textbooks in which a description of neuro-anatomy followed by disorders of the various neurological systems. There are similarities with Practical Neurology, by WB Matthews, which is a gem. Here, chapter headings are entitled, “Right-sided Weakness” and “Left Gaze Paresis”, “Galactorrhoea and Double Vision”, “Sudden Difficulty Speaking”. The approach is one of short clinical presentations of typical cases and a logical thinking-aloud of the thought process involved in reaching an anatomical diagnosis. The authors are to be congratulated on the simplicity of the text and the simple but adequate line drawings which are always on the page facing the relevant text. This makes it easy to assimilate the anatomical pathways. Many drawings were repeated several times in the book. They described the features which would lead one, for example, to conclude that the corticospinal tract was involved in a lesion, for example, brisk jerks and a positive Babinski sign, but as with many neurological texts, they do not adequately describe the various patterns of weakness typical of, in this case, a pyramidal lesion but in others a cortical lesion; or, in others, perhaps a root distribution. There are several unfortunate errors in the text, which should have been spotted in proof reading and may perhaps confuse the inexperienced reader. There are some left/right confusions as well, and a left homonymous field defect is clearly demonstrated when a right one should have been shown (p.127). The section on pharmacological tests on the pupils in Horner’s syndrome is not a model of clarity. The anatomy, however, in relation to language disorders, lacunar syndromes, and the significance of doll’s eye movements were particularly well covered. There were some inconsistencies in nomenclature, for example, Cheyne Stokes’s respiration was defined in detail, yet words such as diencephalon, corona radiata and anisocoria were introduced without any explanation.

Although the authors decry the use of rote learning, it becomes clear that in cases involving the peripheral nervous system it would be impossible to work out the anatomy without the extensive innervation charts provided.

In general, I think this is a book that should be thoroughly recommended for medical students and I suspect it will find its way onto a lot of residents’ and consultants’ shelves. The frequent anatomical drawings are particularly valuable.

With a little attention to detail in the text, I would recommend this warmly and at £13.50 it represents a welcome change from the expensive text books that are usually presented.

JE REES


The work is a record of one of the UCLA Symposium on Molecular and Cellular Biology which were established in 1972, to provide an interdisciplinary forum for scientists involved in new developments in biological research. The present volume presents new developments in the molecular biological approach to understanding neuronal function and development.

The book contains a series of detailed papers dealing with cytoskeletal archi-