book is to form one of a series, as its subtitle might suggest. The aim of the book is to 
"aquaint the wide audience of neuro-
scientists with the current status of knowl-
dge of the morphology of the diseased myelinated axon under selected conditions". 
The emphasis is on electron microscopy.

There are 16 chapters, the majority con-
cerned with experimental work. The editors 
have given authors "ample freedom to 
organize and present the fruits of [their] per-
sonal studies". The book starts well with an 
excellent description by Rosenbluth, of axo-
lemmal structure as observed in freeze-
fractured preparations of myelinated fibres 
from normal nerves, from several mutants 
with abnormalities of central or peripheral 
myelin and from demyelinated nerves. 
Mouse mutants are also the subject of 
three further chapters. Comprehensive accounts are 
given of wobbler (Mitsumoto and Brad-
ley), an animal with lower motor neuron dis-
ease, and twitcher (Scaravilli), a mouse with 
globoid cell leucodystrophy. The chapter on 
the dystrophic mouse (Nakashima and 
Okada) is less complete, lacking clinical 
details and reference to the more recent 
study of the basal lamina deficiency. Mutants with 
abnormalities of CNS myelin are also 
included by Nagara and Suzuki in a chapter 
on radial components of central myelin. 
Three chapters deal with demyelination and 
remyelination in the CNS. Ludwin describes 
clearly his studies on cuprizone-induced 
lesions; Raine and Traugott give a compre-
hsive and superbly illustrated account of 
EAE, which includes much relatively recent 
work, and is prefaced by a survey of the 
pathology of multiple sclerosis. JHM virus-
induced demyelination is well reviewed by 
Erlrich and Fleming. Saida has surveyed 
myelin antigens and immune-mediated 
demyelination in the PNS. These nine chap-
ters are the best and likely to be the most 
useful. Those remaining include case studies 
in dysglobulinaemic neuropathy and in 
membranous lipodystrophy (Nasu disease). 
An experimental electron microscope study 
of CNS changes induced by disulfiram is 
based on immersion fixed material. Another 
experimental study of encephalopathy due to 
thiamine deficiency does not include more 
recent findings on serotoninergic neurons 
which might be relevant to its pathogenesis. 
(It is surprising in a publication of this qual-
ty to find computer-printed graphs.) The 
"fruits of their personal studies" have largely 
dictated the authors' choice of topics for the 
chapter on the pathology of the peripheral 
myelinated axon. Likewise, almost a half of 
the chapter on diabetic neuropathy is 
devoted to the authors' studies on basement 
membrane changes. The recognition of arte-
fact is important, particularly in electron 
microscopy, but the restricted topic of post-
mortem change in peripheral myelinated 
fibres is inappropriate for this publication.

This is a volume of assorted topics whose 
chapters vary as widely in quality as any 
"proceedings of a meeting". Nearly a half of 
the chapters have no references later than 
1982, probably reflecting an over-long ges-
tation period for publication. It was perhaps 
unwise of the editors to encourage descrip-
tion of the contributors' own studies rather 
than to concentrate on pure review articles, 
since this has in some cases led to an unduly 
biased approach. Of far more value is the 
type of well balanced review article to be 
found, for example, in Recent Advances in 
Neuropathology (a third volume must surely 
be due).

Even were this book to fill all the scientific 
requirements, its extremely high price is 
likely to prove the ultimate deterrent. 

JEAN M JACOBS

Handbook of Studies on Schizophrenia. 
Part 1: Epidemiology, Aetiology and Clinical 
Features. Part 2: Management and Research. 
Edited by GD Burrows, TR Norman, G 
328; $92.50.) Amsterdam: Elsevier Science 

These two volumes provide the most compre-
prehensive contemporary account of schizo-
phrenia that I know of. The editors are 
psychiatrists from the University of Mel-
bourne, Australia, but the 63 contributors 
are from around the world, mostly from 
North America. The first volume is mainly 
concerned with causal issues, the second 
through treatment. The book is well balanced 
and all major topics are covered. My main 
criticism concerns the price. It is traditional 
amongst academic reviewers to complain 
about book prices, but £120 for the two vol-
umes is really excessive. One wonders if the 
marketing director of Elsevier is living on a 
different planet. Is it worth buying, even at 
this price? I think so, because of its compre-
hensive coverage, its up-to-date con-
tributions and the quality of each chapter.

It is never easy to review a multi-author 
book because there is no single thesis that 
one can evaluate. Each contributor states his 
own position, emphasises some point or 
reports a selective series of experiments. I 
think that the editors might have grouped 
the contributions more intelligently so that 
diagnostic, causal and prognostic consid-
erations, for example, could be formally 
assessed. The time has come, in my view, for 
authors to stick their necks out and not hide 
behind multi-factorial models of cause and 
multi-professional packages of treatment. 
Jasper damned a contemporary book of 
psychiatry with the faint praise that it was 
"too perfect, not a single mistake". Some of 
the contributions to this book and the over-
all impression attract a similar comment. 

either schizophrenia is a brain disease or 
not? If it is a brain disease what parts of the 
brain are affected? If it effects the frontal 
lobes or the right hemisphere or the corpus 
callosum, for example, then the chapters on 
epileptic psychosis and puerperal psychosis 
are either redundant or should be placed in 
proper perspective. If schizophrenia is a 
brain disease then social factors are not 
equal in importance. These questions are 

crucial to an understanding of schizophrenia 
and if I were editor of such a handbook I 
would organise the contributions so as to 
provide answers to these questions. 

Kraepelin and Bleuler still tower above all 
subsequent writers on schizophrenia pre-
cisely because they attempted a single for-
mulation of the condition. Since then we 
have been fact-gathering only. However, if 
we want to know the facts about schizo-
phrenia, this is the book to turn to. 

J CUTTING

The Pineal Gland During Development 
From Fetus to Adult. Edited by Derek Gupta, Rus-

l J Reiter. (Pp 274; £40.00.) Beckenham: 
Croom Helm Ltd, 1986.

The claims made at the start of this book, 
that the most dramatic advance in neuro-
endocrinology of the decade has been the 
recognition of the importance of the pineal 
gland and its secreted substances, and that 
the pineal has now a central place in neu-
roendocrinology, still do not apply to man. 
There has however been a very considerable 
increase in knowledge about the human as 
well as animal pineal, human melatonin 
rhythms, and the innervation by the pineal 
of the surrounding brain. This book, mainly 
by continental authors, is a laudable attempt 
to summarise modern knowledge of pineal 
anaotmy and function.

There are four main themes. These are 
pineal development, maturation, sexual 
differentiation, and ageing. The emphasis is
more on histology, histochemistry, and the relationship of pineal to other hormones, than on how the light message affects the ovary and testis. The book starts with nine chapters about the development of pinealocytes and photoreceptors, followed by six chapters on the development of melatonin rhythms and their menstrual relationship. Next comes reproduction, and finally old age, in which, perhaps surprisingly, the pineal may remain active.

The problem remains to relate all this to clinical medicine, and as yet no link has been clearly established between the pineal gland and either neurological maturation in children or affective disorders in adults, although some of the authors would have us believe this. The investigation of magnetic field variation on the human pineal has parallels with the earlier Salpêtrière experiments in hypnotism. However, the relationship between pineal tumours and precocious puberty in children is discussed well.

The book is not typeset and has no index, surely essential for even the most esoteric record of a conference proceedings to be of real value. However there are many well-produced illustrations, and long reference lists. The book is not in the same class as the recent Ciba Foundation Symposium *Photoperiodism, melatonin and the pineal*. For pinealologists only.

DAVID PARKES


This is the second edition of this popular account of muscle diseases. In the preface to the first edition the author said “My own prejudices . . . are here displayed for all to see” and he might have added that is the major advantage of any personal book if the prejudices shed light and its downfall if they cause tedium. In this case I greatly enjoyed reading it from cover to cover. Apart from anything else it was a pleasure to read in some detail about how an acknowledged expert actually manages patients even when the disease is untreatable.

The book starts with a discussion of symptoms and signs and contains a particularly useful section on what the observation of simple functional acts (rising from the floor, walking etc) actually indicates about the strength of various muscle groups. A surprising omission is mention of paradoxical abdominal movements as evidence of diaphragm weakness supported by measurement of supine and erect vital capacity. The importance of recording and grading functional abilities is well emphasised.

There follow chapters on diseases of motor neurons (neuropathies are not included in this book), diseases of the neuromuscular junction and then the main muscle diseases categorised as dystrophies, myotonia, inflammatory myopathy, metabolic disease, abnormal muscle activity and congenital (more or less) muscle diseases (sic). In each chapter there is an up to date and remarkably comprehensive account of the present state of knowledge in each disease which is well referenced up to 1985. Sometimes these accounts lacked complete clarity (notably on myasthenia gravis) but most were excellent. The clinical descriptions are enhanced by the clinical photographs and the muscle biopsy findings are well illustrated but not exhaustively (or exhaustingly). The chapter on dystrophies has a particularly good section on management but stops somewhat abruptly without any discussion of the issue of ventilatory support. There is a clear and sufficiently detailed section on exercise and muscle metabolism to allow some sense to be made of the bewildering number of enzyme defects in energy metabolism now described. Acquired muscle disease is somewhat sketchily covered doubtless reflecting the difference between a true “muscle specialist” and a “general neurologist with an interest”; hence there is no discussion on the differential diagnosis of all those weak patients with general medical disorders who seem to be rather commoner than a new case of dystrophy in the UK (no mention of steroid myopathy, osteomalacic myopathy or carcinomatous neuromyopathy and half a page on alcohol).

This book is well presented and easy to read even if the number of spelling mistakes is almost at irritation threshold. Nevertheless it can be highly recommended as a book to have personally, rather than in a distant library, if one is dealing with clinical muscle problems.

CM WILES


This small volume distils the recent advances, which have come in the last five years, in stereotactic technique in a manageable space, so that not only traditional neurosurgeons who may not have been trained in stereotaxis, but also medical neurologists, may understand the benefit which may flow from the use of such methods. There are 14 chapters, which address all the relevant current aspects of stereotaxis, as well as providing a historical perspective. The most commonly used commercially available stereotactic apparatus is described. The practice of classical stereotaxis, based largely on ventriculography, as well as the modern methods based on CT scanning is lucidly described. Effectively this book may be used as a text book by the trainee neurosurgeon requiring skill in stereotaxis. The author reviews the literature concerning the indications and results of stereotaxis for functional purposes, for example movement disorders and the treatment of pain, as well as the indications in tumour surgery. He also presents his personal view and experiences in these fields. The text is sometimes idiosyncratic in its use of English and didactic in its instruction. However, it has condensed an enormous amount of information into a small and easily readable volume. As a text book it must be compared with much larger volumes which often cover the field superficially and present information in a more turgid way. The book is printed on excellent paper with good illustrations and an excellent bibliography. It should be on the library shelf of every department of neurosurgery and of that minority of neurosurgeons who chose to take an interest in stereotaxis. It should also be read by other neurosurgeons and by medical neurologists. It can be recommended as an up-to-date and authoritative account of the state of the art.

DGT THOMAS

Notice

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Further information, may be obtained from The Secretariat, P.O.B. 50006, Tel-Aviv 61500, Israel