chemical (though penicillamine-induced myasthenia is discussed elsewhere). Also there is no discussion of myasthenia following bone marrow transplantation. However these minor criticisms apart this is a very comprehensive review.

Volume 2 starts off with a chapter on senile dementia (Kellett and Bachlard). This chapter would have been written before some of the recent data from studies using molecular biological techniques were published. That apart, a comprehensive discussion takes place on clinical and social aspects, pathology and the known biochemistry of these conditions. This is a very nicely integrated chapter that then comes back to clinical aspects, having discussed the scientific side, to talk about treatment of the patient and their family. This last section contains some interesting anecdotal situations that I found most enjoyable and instructive, and would recommend this chapter very highly. The second review is on demyelinating disease (compston, Cuzner and Davison) and is also excellent. It covers clinical aspects, epidemiology, genetics with HLA typing studies, and then goes on to the neurochemistry, neuropathology, chemical pathology and clinical pathology with further discussions on immunology and implications for treatment. I enjoyed this nicely balanced chapter and particularly appreciated that discussions on what is after all an inflammatory disease of the central nervous system were not too obsessed with immunology but also mentioned other mediators of cell damage which may in the end prove to be a more promising avenue therapeutically.

All in all these two volumes are superb. I assume the series is continuing and that both clinical neurologists and neuroscientists will have a series of reviews that they will wish to have on their own or their departments' book-cases rather than in the library. For a neurologist in training they are a must.

AC WILLIAMS


This is the latest in a spate of books on dementia. Prof. Pitt with 22 selected authors have provided in 20 chapters and 337 pages a balanced and up to date survey of this topic.

The emphasis is naturally on the elderly, but this text is little marred by the soft, sociological approach which eschews the basic science fundamental both to understanding and advance. There are full descriptions of neurochemistry (Rossor), neuropathology (Scholtz), clinical features (Copeland; Dodwell) each thorough, current and well supplied with references. I particularly enjoyed the early chapters on the history of dementia (U'Ren) and nosology (Berrios). The muddled identity and diagnosis of the multi-infarct state (Wade & Hachinski) are not yet resolved; and, if delirium (Pitt) and depression (Thielman & Blazer) seem removed from the main subject, they have much clinical relevance in diagnosis. It is of interest to read of the alleged structural changes in the brain thought to be due to depression though the implications hang a little precariously.

There is little new in a workmanlike review of drug treatment, the THA literature presumably being published after chapters were submitted. Psychogeriatric and social services, caring for carers and psychological management are each provided with a chapter—useful guidelines for those in charge of Medicine for the Elderly. It is a pity that they fail to deprecate colleagues whose attitudes or inertia have permitted the breakdown of essential hospital services throughout the UK: "psychogeriatric" wards and whole hospitals (often the only ones in the Health Authorities area) are daily being closed. Virgil's Eclogue was prophetic: "Quem fugis, a, demens? Habituart di quoque sivas." (From whom do you flee, madman? Even Gods have lived in the woods.) Trendy Community care has sadly proved a wholly inadequate alternative as many families and patients can testify.

My only real criticism of this nicely produced book is the need for a stricter editorial red pencil to remove several areas of unnecessary repetition. Most of the material covered can be found in similar recent texts, but the compilation can be strongly recommended to physicians and should be of particular help to geriatricians. Those seeking more erudite information and reference sources will consult the recent issue of the British Medical Bulletin devoted to Alzheimer's disease.

JMS PEARCE


This is the second edition of a book aimed at the patient suffering from multiple sclerosis. Sylvia Lawry, in her preface, describes the book as one intended as a guide for the patient and Dr Scheinberg, in his introduction, hopes that his book will be ready by both patients and members of the family either at initial diagnosis or at other times in the course of the illness. He hopes it will allow a better understanding of the disorder and a better understanding of the various symptoms and vicissitudes which will beset the patient.

The book begins with a chapter on epidemiology. A consideration of the genetic factors and factors involved in the pathogenesis of the disease follows and then a chapter on the simple neuropathology of the disease and the immune system. A very useful chapter on diagnosis comes from Charles Poser, including the value of MRI. The general management of the patient is discussed in a series of chapters, both fully and sympathetically and these realistic chapters are the most valuable in the book.

The impression given by this book is that the patient with multiple sclerosis, certainly on the American continent, will require to have a very high IQ, be highly educated and be very well informed to be able properly to comprehend the text which is essentially medical and assumes considerable knowledge of anatomy, physiology and medical terminology. Such statements as: "as in any chronic unpredictable illness there are frequent tertiary symptoms in the psychological, social and vocational areas" will require an explanation for most victims and particularly would find difficulty in appreciating the following: "It appears to have a specific suppressant action on the lymphocytic subpopulation that augments the immune response of other lymphocytes"., in a reference to immunosuppressive therapy.

I feel, therefore, that further editions would benefit from a glossary of terms and note or two of explanation of the essential medical matters discussed.

The dietetic advice is sensible and the chapter on physiotherapy and surgical therapy is equally so. A useful chapter is devoted to nursing care where the value of exercise is considered and attention is given to the various symptoms of the disease and especially skin protection, pressure sores and contractures. There is a separate chapter on the management of bowel and bladder problems and, again, this will prove very useful indeed given that the patient's capability of understanding the text.

There is a useful review of the possible new treatments in this disease and an explanation of the requirement for clinical trials and the type of trials that have been undertaken.