aneurysms, with the emphasis on the therapeutic approaches to the problems. The work is based on the experience of the French neurosurgeons, backed up by a thorough review of the literature. The book is well-written, well-translated, but I felt that its main strength was the superb illustrations, particularly the photographs taken through the operating microscope, which are sharp and, although only in black and white, are usually accompanied by excellent drawings which illustrate the anatomy perfectly. A further strength of the book is the final 3 pages, under the heading General Conclusions, where the authors set out their philosophy in the management of the various clinical problems associated with giant aneurysms. Their approach is, of course, personalised and like all neurological problems, open to debate, but for the general neurosurgeon who occasionally deals with giant aneurysms, these 3 pages act as a clear guide for decision making and by following the authors' recommendations, a good plan of management can be developed. I find it rare in a book of this type for such clear final recommendations to be made and I think this adds considerably to the value of the work.

The book is expensive for its size, but I feel should be available in all libraries where neurosurgeons practise. Whether the individual will want to buy it will depend on his personal circumstances. I feel that the neurosurgeon with a particular interest in giant aneurysms, may find detail lacking in the text, but would greatly appreciate the extensive bibliography. The resident in neurosurgery would probably find the book too expensive, but should read the book as a great deal will be learnt from it about the management of these difficult clinical problems.

PETER RICHARDS


The remarkable development of molecular biology over the last decade has already had a profound effect on the pathogenesis, investigation and in some cases management of neurological disease. Hitherto the main impact of the so-called "new genetics" has been in the field of inherited neurological disease but over the last few years rapid progress has also been made in elucidating the molecular pathogenesis of a range of diseases including Alzheimer's disease, viral diseases and neurological diseases associated with mitochondrial dysfunction. For these reasons this is a particularly timely volume. It is the ninth title in the series of Butterworth's *International Medical Reviews on Neurology* and carries on the exceptionally high standard set by all of the previous volumes. Because of both the complexity of the subject and the range of topics that can be subsets under this title, the editors must have been faced with a difficult task in the selection of the chapters. However, I consider that they have carried out this task in a masterly fashion and in compiling this succinct yet comprehensive volume the editors have performed a considerable service to the neurological community.

This is the most scientifically orientated of all of the volumes in the Butterworth's series to date, and I personally applaud this approach. Understanding molecular biology is not easy and the "jobbing neurologist" without the relevant scientific background will have to exert a considerable degree of concentration and force of will to get to grips with all the concepts which are presented. However, the rewards of such careful reading will be considerable because almost without exception the chapters in this book are authoritative, broad in scope, highly informative and stimulating. A large number of topics are covered and there are no significant omissions. As has been the tradition in this series there is a very good introductory chapter by the editors in which basic molecular biological principles are introduced. In subsequent chapters gene expression in both brain and skeletal muscle are well covered and there is a fine chapter on the regulation of nervous system development by specific proteins. There is a detailed and concise review of chemical neurotransmission, and two chapters on messenger RNA in nervous tissue, one concentrating on in situ hybridisation methods of visualising brain mRNA and the other giving a more general discussion of mRNA levels in a variety of neurological diseases. There are two chapters devoted to viral diseases of the nervous system. One of these is a concise review of host and viral genetic factors influencing viral neuropathism and the other is concerned with detection of viral genes in a variety of neurological diseases. The latter is certainly adequate although a little unctitical in places. There is also a chapter describing elegant experiments of neurological disease induced in transgenic mice. Naturally there are several chapters devoted to the molecular genetics of inherited neurological disease.

The remarkably successful application of molecular biological techniques to muscular dystrophy are described in an excellent chapter which highlights the impact that these techniques have had in terms of earlier detection and prenatal diagnosis. There are also authoritative chapters on the molecular genetics of Huntington's disease, neurological diseases associated with mitochondrial dysfunction and the molecular basis of retinoblastoma and Joseph disease. There is a stimulating chapter on the molecular basis of neuro-oncogenesis and also a very useful review of immunogenetics and the association of genetic polymorphism and susceptibility to a variety of neurological diseases. Finally, the authors summarise the neurological "gene map" for 1987.

In summary, this is an extremely useful book and in my opinion should be read by all clinical neurologists. It should also be of considerable interest to a variety of other specialists including those in the fields of pure molecular biology, psychiatry, neuroscience, genetics and developmental biologists. The book is reasonably priced, well produced and also has good illustrations. It deserves much success and should be on the shelves of all neurological and general medical libraries.

PGE KENNEDY


The Proceedings of a two day conference on the rehabilitation of brain damaged people, held at Copenhagen in 1987 are recorded in this book. The stated aims of the conference were "to present and discuss state of the art knowledge within neuropsychology, neurology, neuropsycharmacology and neuropsychology as they apply to the rehabilitation of brain damaged adults." The aims of the book were to share the experience gained from the conference with a larger audience, and also to pay tribute to the work of Anne-Lise Christensen and her colleagues at the Centre for Rehabilitation of Brain Damage in Copenhagen.

The book consists of eight chapters and a postscript. The first and clearly-written chapter deals with the topic of neural plasticity and the "contextual" factors that may affect recovery of function following traumatic brain injury (TBI). Chapter two...
provides a balanced review of the advantages and disadvantages of the use of a host of neuropharmacological agents in the management of TBI. The psychometric-statistical versus the theoretical-clinical assumptions underlying the assessment of neuropsychological function and the reductionistic versus dynamic approaches to its rehabilitation and their influence on research methodology are considered in chapter three and illustrated with examples from research studies. Recent developments in rehabilitation in terms of consumer interests, research trends, and delivery of services are outlined in chapter four, which also clarifies the vocabulary commonly used in the assessment of patients with TBI. In chapter five a number of areas in rehabilitation that require attention and further development are identified, discussed, and illustrated by single case histories. These include the need for reliable and valid assessment measures, objective evaluation of early stimulation of comatose patients, interdisciplinary management programmes, contribution of the patient's family and self-help groups to the process of adaptation and rehabilitation, and provision of long term care. Evidence for the cost-effectiveness of neuropsychological rehabilitation in terms of the cost to health insurance companies in the USA is provided in Chapter six. Whether every patient with TBI should participate in rehabilitation programmes, and the related issues of evaluation of the efficacy of rehabilitation programmes, identification of prognostic variables, and the politics and economics of resource availability are among the topics discussed by the Conference Panel in Chapter seven. Details of the rehabilitation programme used at the Danish Center are provided in Chapter eight.

The book is rather unprofessionally edited and poorly presented. There are numerous typographical errors, the type-faces are uneven and inconsistent across and sometimes within chapters, page 88 is a replication of page 87, and in the reference list of some chapters the title of articles is omitted. For £26 one would expect a professionally produced volume.

The book and the conference on which it is based are among the recent and welcome signs of the long overdue and gradual emergence of a rehabilitation perspective in neuropsychology and allied fields during the last decade. Despite this, and the fact that the book contains contributions from a number of eminent professionals in the field of neuropsychological rehabilitation, it is likely to be of limited interest to students or clinicians working in the field, as it provides a brief and general overview of the area, rather than dealing with specific techniques or providing detailed efficacy data.


Professor Mastaglia has assembled a formidable international team to produce this "state of the art" account of the inflammatory myopathies which collectively constitute the commonest *acquired* disorders of skeletal muscle seen in clinical practice. Inevitably a great deal of attention has been focused on the putative immunopathogenesis of the idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (polymyositis and dermatomyositis) and their treatment. However three chapters detail the clinical features, pathology and management of the infective myositides which are, of course, of paramount importance in the Third World.

Considering the volume of information on the inflammatory myopathies and their associated immune phenomena which has accumulated during the last decade particularly, the appearance of such a monograph is timely (it is the first since Walton and Adams' seminal contribution 30 years ago). Certainly this monograph gives a comprehensive account of all aspects of inflammatory muscle disease and is likely to be an extremely useful reference source for some time to come. This reviewer found Targoff and Reichlin's chapter on "Immunological Aspects" particularly helpful. The authors give a detailed and lucid analysis of the burgeoning literature of both cellular and humoral immune mechanisms in "idiopathic" inflammatory myopathy (including a review of their own numerous contributions). One cannot help but be persuaded by the evidence they have marshalled and their conclusion that this evidence "strongly supports an immunological pathogenesis . . ." for these disorders.

The remaining chapters give detailed and profusely illustrated clinicopathological accounts of polymyositis and dermatomyositis, in children and adults, once again with the emphasis on their likely immunopathogenesis (Mastaglia comments upon a degree of overlap amongst these chapters which, quite clearly, cannot be avoided).

There are few criticisms of any importance. However Pamphletts' chapter on the technical details of muscle biopsy sits rather uneasily between Sir John Walton's polished description of the clinical feature of inflammatory myopathies and the chapter on immunology discussed above. One seriously questions the need for this kind of detail which can be found in the many other texts on neuromuscular disorders available currently, especially since the micrographs in this chapter illustrate anything but inflammatory myopathy! Some of the other microphotographs (of paraffin-embedded tissue) leave a lot to be desired, particularly in the final chapter on "miscellaneous conditions" (Fig 10.9 is an outstandingly bad example).

Professor Mastaglia and his collaborators are to be congratulated on this literary milestone in the study of inflammatory muscle disease.

P HUDGSON


There are few texts that provide an authoritative and comprehensive account of physical treatments in psychiatry. Many textbooks of psychiatry gloss over psychopharmacology, failing to give proper consideration to the wide range of drugs available for treatment, and the often subtle differences between them. Electroconvulsive therapy is often discussed without a clear presentation of the principles underlying it, and such important issues as different methods of electrode placement and current applications are neglected. Psychosurgery is rarely considered. This book comprehensively reviews all these three areas, providing an excellent reference text, but in addition a useful practical manual. Each section is preceded by a lengthy historical introduction which reminds the reader of the long struggle towards the development of effective physical treatments that we are so lucky to have in psychiatric practice today. The section on psychosurgery is one of the most comprehensive, up-to-date accounts that this reviewer has come across in any recent textbook, and the psychopharmacology section is excellent with most of the newer psychotropic agents mentioned, with the exception of the selective SHT uptake inhibitors that have recently become available.

There is a brief section on dubious therapies, which include prolonged narcotics...