either reviews of past research or short research articles often confirming previously published results. Unique though, were the contributions by scientists from the USSR, Yugoslavia and Poland, and the editors must be praised for bringing together such diversity.

ELINOR BEN-MENACHEM

Genes, Brain, and Behavior. Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Vol. 69. Edited by P R McHUGH AND V A McKUSICK. (Pp 237; Price \$119.00). 1990. New York, Raven Press. ISBN 088167 725 6.

This book has sixteen chapters and is divided into three sections on basic genetics, on applications of basic genetic science and modern techniques to specific neurological and psychiatric conditions, and on aspects of behavioural genetics.

As with all multiauthor texts there is variation between the chapters in both style and content. The first section is informative, with a valuable contribution by Reed Pyeritz on formal genetics in humans. The second section is wideranging and in some chapters, such as James Gusella's on the search for the genetic defects in Huntington's disease and familial Alzheimer's disease, a good deal of knowledge on the part of the reader is assumed. Interesting chapters on mitochondrial genes and disease (Douglas Wallace) and on the search for the phenylalanine hydroxylase gene (Savio Woo) require some familiarity on the part of the reader with techniques of molecular genetics. In the section on behavioural genetics the contributions by Robert Plomin on theory and by Albert Stunkard on genetic influence on human obesity stand out for their clarity of exposition.

Glossaries of genetic terms are provided at the end of some of the chapters. There is a good deal of overlap between these glossaries; some familiar terms, such as "allele", "linkage" and "phenotype" are defined several times, whereas the LOD score, though discussed in some detail on p. 140, is not properly defined until p. 155, in the text of the next chapter. More consistency and better understanding might have been achieved by putting a general glossary of all the terms needing definition at the end of the book, and perhaps by including details of important molecular genetic techniques such as restriction fragment length polymorphisms and the polymerase chain reaction. However, despite some deficiencies of organisation, there is much useful information for clinical neuroscientists in this book.

CS TREIP

Paediatric Neurology 2nd Edition. Edited by EDWARD M BRETT. (Pp 895 Illustrated; Price: £90.00.) Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-03788-4.

I enjoyed using the first edition of this book (1983) and the text of the second is much better. The erudition and rich clinical

experience of the author remain and the many loose ends and omissions have been carefully tidied up. These were perhaps inevitable in a book which was essentially the work of a single author, with invited contributions by colleagues. There are new chapters on imaging (DPE Kingsley) and on acute encephalopathies (GF Cole). M Levin, M Baraitser, DM Forrest, SG Boyd and A Harden, and J Payan have respectively taken over the chapters on infections, genetics, meningocele, clinical neurophysiology and EMG from the previous authors, and BD Lake, JV Leonard, ME Lobascher and N Gordon have revised their contributions.

The book now stands as undoubtedly the best British textbook of paediatric neurology. The account of the neurological examination of children is excellent and for clinical description of both common and unusual disorders it is unrivalled. It deliberately makes no attempt to cover the biochemical pathology or the wider basic science aspects of the subject, in contrast with some of its North American rivals, but the author's immense clinical experience more than makes up for this. This is a neurology text in the tradition of Gowers. The relegation of genetics to a separate chapter is not wholly successful; it should pervade the whole of any account of paediatric neurology.

Sometimes the advice on management is a little vague and I should have wished for more emphasis on the use of chemotherapy for brain tumours. But I have only two major criticisms—the index is seriously inadequate to the point of making much of the book inaccessible; and the photographic reproduction, especially of many of the CT scans, is much worse than in the first edition and is compounded by new black bars obscuring the eyes in almost every clinical photograph. Many previously good images are now valueless. The standard was often better in my copies of Sachs' text of 1905 or Garrod, Batten and Thursfield (1913). In a £90 book this is inexcusable. Dr Brett would be wise to find a new publisher for the 3rd edition.

D GARDNER-MEDWIN

Clinical Neurology. Edited by M SWASH AND J OXBURY. (Pp Vol 1 – 921 Illustrated Vol 2 – 1179 Illustrated; Price: £195.00 (set)) Harlow, Longman Group UK Ltd, 1991. ISBN 0-443-03221-1

As a non-contributor to this admirable book, I am one of the few British Neurologists eligible to review it. It is a major new neurological text book which should have wide appeal.

The two editors with their different interests have produced a well balanced and comprehensive reference work. They have attempted successfully a uniformity of style and a consistency of approach. One rapidly learns how to find one's way around the books. The contributors have been well chosen and are acknowledged experts in their particular fields.

Each chapter has an extremely comprehensive list of references. Many readers will turn to this work first in order to start their investigation into an unfamiliar topic.

The index in a work of this nature is of paramount importance. It is provided at the back of both volumes and is comprehensive

and generally of high standard. It was not difficult to locate required information rapidly. The quality of the illustrations is generally good, although in black and white. It was only the retinal photographs and the histological sections that suffered slightly from lack of colour. The MRI scans shown are not quite of the quality that one would expect from the newer scanners. In figure 19.37 and 19.39, the same angiogram is given, one to demonstrate the aneurysm and the other spasm.

There are well over 100 contributors, all but 9 of them from the English speaking world. Each contributor will therefore receive less than 1,000th of the sale price of the books. Medical authors really are a form of slave labour for the publishing houses. Many of the contributors have put very considerable amount of effort into their chapters. Although one doesn't write medically with the hope of any significant profit, one would hope that they would receive better reward than such a very small share.

Every medical library should have a copy of this new work. It is as up-to-date as one could hope for from a book of this size. It will be invaluable to general medical, geriatric, rheumatological and orthopaedic registrars. Many neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists should consider having it in their own library, it will be referred to again and again.

DJ THOMAS

Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Clinical Medicine and the Nervous System Series. By R A C HUGHES. (Pp 308 illustrated; Price DM220.00). 1990. Heidelberg, Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3 540 19634 X.

Guillain-Barré Syndrome. By A H ROPPER, E F M WIJDIKES, B I TRUAX. (Pp 369 illustrated; Price £33.75). 1991. Beckenham, F A Davis & Co. ISBN 0 8036 7572 0.

Within months of one another, these two excellent books on Guillain-Barré syndrome have been published by distinguished experts in the field. Despite sharing the same title, they are remarkably different in approach and content. Ropper, Wijdicks and Truax's book is primarily a clinical manual which makes telling use of Professor Ropper's first hand experience of managing over 250 patients with Guillain-Barré syndrome in Boston. Professor Hughes presents a more concise account of the clinical aspects, but also discusses extensively the possible immunopathogenesis. Both books are clearly written and organised, well indexed, full of useful tables, and well referenced and illustrated.

Professor Hughes' book contains four chapters addressing the experimental and clinical immunology of demyelinating neuropathy. His discussion of the prognosis of Guillain-Barré syndrome highlights interesting geographical differences in survival rates, implying that standards of neurological intensive care in Britain and France may be substantially inferior to those of specialist centres in North America. His comparison of four different trials of plasma exchange therapy clearly emphasises the need to apply this treatment early, preferably within the first week. Because of the inevitable delays caused by multiple transfers between