

students and interns at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. It provides a succinct guide to the key features of brain metabolism for clinicians in the neurosciences. As might be expected from a book based on a well honed lecture course, it is clearly laid out and presented.

After an initial chapter outlining the essentials of the subject, the anatomy of the brain interfaces, and the physiology of the cerebrospinal and interstitial fluids of the brain are clearly described. The section on the mathematics of intracranial substance transport will be somewhat beyond most clinicians, but is relevant to an understanding of the succeeding chapters on MRI spectroscopy and the use of radio-isotopes. A final section discusses the metabolic aspects of cerebral hypoxia and brain oedema.

This book is clearly written and well produced. It will be useful to those clinicians who wish to understand the metabolic basis of neurological disease and investigation. Fortunately the price is reasonable and should not place it beyond the reach of neurologists and neurosurgeons working in the United Kingdom.

RS MAURICE-WILLIAMS

**Neurobehavioral Aspects of Multiple Sclerosis.** Edited by STEPHEN M RAO. (Pp 271; Price: £35.00). Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1990. ISBN 0-19-505400-8

Dr Rao, the Associate Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry in Wisconsin, has edited a review of recent advances in understanding cognitive and affective disorders in patients with multiple sclerosis. This multi-author book is not the product of a scientific meeting but an edited and thoughtful overview of a subject which for decades was dismissed as "euphoria" and largely ignored; its aim is to bridge the gap between the Clinical Neurologist and the Neuropsychologist or Psychiatrist. With the exception of a single New Zealander, currently working in Canada, all the authors are North American.

There are four sections: Clinical pathological features; cognitive effects; affective problems; and a plan of management. In the first the author comments "Too often physicians have overlooked the frequency and extent of cognitive change in multiple sclerosis" and Professor Sibley, who provides an excellent summary of clinical features in MS, duly obliges by omitting all reference to cognition and affect. The chapters on Neuropathology and Imaging by Raine and Paty respectively are well written and excellently illustrated.

The sections on Cognition and Affect reveal the bias of individual authors who suggest that multiple sclerosis causes a "subcortical" dementia with "secondary" memory defects, and that the tissue volume on MRI scan relates to the cognitive disability suggesting that the Clinical Neurologists' concept of "silent" plaques is incorrect. The frequency of euphoria is shown to be low, less than 10% of patients with multiple sclerosis, and it is evident that the Neuropsychologists involved in research in MS are beginning to recognise that change in patients with multiple sclerosis is often remarkably slow, one of the examples quoted reporting only four of 46 patients showing measurable deterioration over an 18 month period.

The final section explores the use of psychological measurement in the planning of future trials, though the slow evolution of change will surely be limiting. It recommends the development of psychological treatment regimes and investigates their role in rehabilitation. The book will be of more use to introduce multiple sclerosis to Psychologists than to demonstrate the uses of psychological measurement to neurological clinicians involved in MS research, but is a useful and well produced synopsis of current knowledge.

D BATES

**The Metabolic and Molecular Basis of Acquired Disease Vols 1 and 2.** Edited by RD COHEN, B LEWIS, KGMM ALBERTI AND AM DENMAN. (Pp Vol 1-1219, Vol 2-2135; Price: £175.00). Sidcup, Bailliere Tindall, 1990. Vol 1 ISBN 0-7020-1282-3, Vol 2 ISBN 0-7020 1369-2, Set ISBN 0-7020-1493-1

This is a major work of well over two thousand pages with some 160 contributors. It is expensively produced on good quality paper with colour in the text and with a small number of colour plates. From the Preface it seems that it can be seen as a companion volume to the esteemed "Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease" by Stanbury, Wyngaarden & Fredrickson. If it were to measure up to that standard it would, indeed, be a most valuable addition to the medical literature.

Despite the generous time allowed for reviewing I confess I have not read the entire two volumes! I have worked on the principle of looking up things I think I know about, things I need to know about and things which have occurred in the course of my daily work. In most cases I have not been disappointed. The book aims at a wide readership stated to include clinicians, pathologists, biomedical scientists, epidemiologists, experts in preventive medicine and students. There is certainly something here for all of these. Perhaps this work is of greatest use to the clinician looking up a subject which arises and in which he has a smattering of knowledge. I suggest all clinicians have many topics in this category and reference to this book will usually supply the necessary information and set it in context clearly and succinctly. Even better than this, the work is excellent for a systematic introduction to certain topics, for example the chapter on immunological mechanisms. There are also admirable chapters on alcohol and hepatic encephalopathy. Looking up some subjects, however, proved disappointing, for example opioid peptides and hypogammaglobulinaemia are dealt with only *en passant*.

In a work of this magnitude errors are bound to creep in, and some may be disconcerting, for example table 41.2 should be headed hyponatraemia not hypernatraemia. It would be helpful if the index clearly indicated which is the main entry when there are multiple pages referred to.

These comments are not intended to be carping. This is an excellent work of reference covering a very wide field. It seems to me that when I remember to consult it I will rarely be disappointed. It does measure up.

MS LOSOWSKY

## SHORT NOTICES

**Cognitive Neuropsychology: A Clinical Introduction.** By RA MCCARTHY AND EK WARRINGTON. (Pp 428; Price \$34.95.) 1990. San Diego: Academic Press. ISBN 0 12 481846 3.

This well produced paperback is an authoritative introduction to clinical neuropsychology suitable for clinical and academic disciplines.

Each chapter covers a specific cognitive function and its breakdown in the face of cerebral disease. The text is well written, avoids jargon, and clearly assembles theoretical and anatomical considerations in a wide variety of contexts. It is well illustrated by photographs and by line drawings of commonly applied clinical tests, supplemented by tables of experimental data.

In a psychology literature replete with the abstruse, the irrelevant and the unintelligible, this excellent volume will be a boon to a wide variety of neuroscientists.

**Motor Control: Concepts and Issues Dahlem Workshop Reports.** Edited by D R HUMPHREY AND H-J FREUND (Pp 500; Price: £70.00) 1991. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd. ISBN 0 471 92919 0.

**Handbook of Multiple Sclerosis.** (Neurological Disease and Therapy Series/8). Edited by S D COOK. (Pp 513; Illustrated; Price \$115.00 (U.S. & Canada) \$138.00 (All Other Countries)). New York, Marcel Dekker, Inc., 1990. ISBN 0 8247 8367 0.

This is a substantial multi-authored text covering all the important aspects of current knowledge on Multiple Sclerosis. Most of the authors are from the United States but there are English contributors. The text ranges widely over basic science immunology, clinical features, pathology, evoked potentials and imaging, and there are detailed accounts of various therapeutic options.

The text is well produced, illustrated, and abounds with well chosen references.