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 use of psychological measurement to neurological clinicians involved in MS research, but is a useful and well produced synopsis of current knowledge.

D BATES


This is a major work of well over two thousand pages with some 160 contributors. It is expertly 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 & Freidrickson. 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 hypernatremia. 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