A panel of anti-dystrophin antibodies might not only detect the presence of small in-frame deletions (as Dr Kyriakides points out) but may also suggest the presence of point mutations affecting the epitopes recognised by an individual antibody. Such information can then be used to narrow down the search for the precise gene defect by other molecular biology techniques.

In conclusion, I believe that the most rational and cost effective diagnostic approach to the study of dystrophinopathies is to perform immunocytochemical analysis with a panel of anti-dystrophin antibodies as a first option. As we have demonstrated,[1] this strategy allows the detection of minor abnormalities that cannot be found using only one antibody. If this analysis is normal, but a dystrophinopathy still suspected, a subsequent Western blot analysis (with a careful quantitation and correction for the myosin content) then becomes appropriate. The use of multiple antibodies will make the need for this more accurate but time-consuming technique less necessary.

F MUNTONI
Department of Paëdiatrics and Neonatal Medicine, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN, UK

1 Muntoni F, Mateddu A, Cianchetti C, *et al.* Dystrophin analysis using a panel of anti-dystrophin antibodies in Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1993;**56**:26–31.
2 Nicholson LVB, Johnson MA, Gardner-Medwin D, Blrattachaya S, Harris JB. Heterogeneity of dystrophin expression in patients with Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy. *Acta Neuropathol (Berl)* 1990;**80**:239–50.

BOOK REVIEWS

All titles reviewed here are available from the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Prices include postage in the United Kingdom and for members of the British Forces Overseas, but overseas customers should add £2 per item for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a United Kingdom bank, or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa or American Express) stating card number, expiratory date, and your full name.

Modern Perxpectives of Child Neurology. Edited by Y FUKUYAMA, S KAMOSHITA, C OHTSUKA and Y SUZUKI (Pp 360; Price: Not Indicated). 1991. ISBN Not Indicated. Publisher: The Japanese Society of Child Neurology c/o Dept of Pediatrics, Tokyo Women's Medical College, 8–1 Kawadacho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162, Japan.

This volume is the published proceedings of the Fifth International Child Neurology and the Third Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology held in Tokyo in November 1990. Topics covered include metabolic encephalopathies, neurological infections, complications of immunisation, febrile convulsions, intractable epilepsy and child neurology in tropical countries.

The papers vary greatly in their quality. Some are single case reports of unusual conditions, others are authoritative and up to date reviews of important topics in child neurology. An example is the paper by Jean Aicardi on Febrile Convulsions. Other papers describe large series of children with neurological disorders unfamiliar to child neurologists in Western countries. A prominent example is the paper by Udani on the presentation of CNS tuberculosis in children who have had BCG vaccination.

The section on metabolic encephalopathies include both clinical details of children with mitochondrial disorders and Reye-like syndromes but also discussion of possible pathogenesis. Aiyathurai's discussion of the significance of giant mitochondria and peroxisomal proliferation in Reye-like encephalopathies provides insight as to the metabolic derangements in these conditions. There are excellent clinical and biochemical reviews of MELAS and Leigh's encephalopathy.

There is no subject index in the volume which is essential when such diverse neurological topics are covered. This book will be of interest to the child neurologist because of its diverse subject matter but selective sampling of its contents is advised. Perhaps for future volumes a more selective approach to the material to be included is indicated. This may allow inclusion of discussions that follow the presentations, which are perhaps the most interesting aspect of specialist meetings.

MA CLARKE

The Molecular and Genetic Basis of Neurological Disease. By R N ROSENBERG, S B PRUSINER, S DIMAURO, R L BARCHI, AND L M KUNKEL. (Pp 1023, Illustrated; Price: £175.00). 1992. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann. ISBN 0-7506-9069-0

This formidable text has five eminent editors and over 100 contributors to 66 chapters and aims to present the metabolic and/or molecular basis of neurological disorders to clinicians who care for patients with hereditary neurological disorders, and to the important band of neuroscientists who investigate them.

The first chapter explains the rationale and methods of DNA investigations and serves as a good basis for understanding strategies for gene identification and mutation analysis. A wide variety of other topics include membrane excitability disorders, neuro-oncology, disorders of muscle and mitochondria. However, some chapters are more suitable for paediatricians than for neurologists. For example, the two conditions described under "Chromosomes" are Down's syndrome and Fragile-X syndrome, and there are 30 chapters on inborn errors of metabolism.

A useful result of genetic studies is the discovery of new proteins and the subsequent elucidation of their normal function. Dystrophin is one such example clearly described here. Another exciting outcome of genetic analysis is the correlation of clinical findings with gene mutations, as exemplified by the glycogen storage diseases, where different genes code different subunits of enzymes, and where there are many different mutations of the same gene. There are also unusual pathogenetic mechanisms such as the size of a (CTG) repeat in myotonic dystrophy or the altered conformation of a gene product with prion protein disease or p53 mutations. Such oddities should serve to stimulate as well as educate.

However, the policy of describing those diseases with a known molecular or metabolic basis leads to a somewhat distorted view of neurology, so that rare diseases are given disproportionate space compared to common but poorly understood diseases. Nevertheless, this textbook represents a major and successful undertaking, although a subsequent edition should include chromosomal causes of cerebral malformations, more discussion of the neurodegenerative disorders of old age, and accounts of all the genes listed in Harding's and Rosenberg's neurologic gene map.

SARAH BUNDEY

Recent Advances in Clinical Psychiatry /8. (Series: Recent Advances). Edited by KENNETH GRANVILLE-GROSSMAN. (Pp 216 Illustrated; Price: £29.95 (Hardback)). 1993. Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-04696-4.

Virtually every psychiatrist will be familiar with this series which presents reviews on topics in psychiatry, essentially a digest of recent literature. Chapters are helpfully concluded with important points for clinical practice, and at the end of the book there are reviews of some key papers published in 1990/1991.

Like most multi-author textbooks, the presentation is uneven. Some chapters contain undigested literature and, beyond some time saving on reading original papers, present little advantage to the reader. The chapter on Parkinson's Disease is excellent; (it critically evaluates the literature), as is the chapter on Liaison Psychiatry of Old Age, with helpful suggestions on the use of rating scales by non-psychiatrists to evaluate mental disorder in the elderly. Every doctor should read the chapters on Chronic Pain and Somatoform Disorders as the emotional component of pain is so often misunderstood and inadequately integrated into the treatment process with poor outcome for patient and doctor.

This book is, therefore, a must for psychiatric trainees preparing for Membership or more senior psychiatrists who wish to keep abreast of new developments. Doctors with an eclectic view in other specialties may well find it pertinent to their clinical needs.

MARTIN G LIVINGSTON

Neuropathies Peripheriques: Polyneuropathies and mononeuropathies multiples (in French). By PIERRE BOUCHE and JEAN-MICHEL VALLAT. (Pp 899, Illustrated; Price: Not Indicated) 1992. Maisonneuve Editions Medicales, 386 Route de Paris Sainte-Ruffine, BP 39–57162 Moulins-les-Metz Cedex. ISBN 2–7040–0683–0.
This book contains contributions from sixty authors. However, the fears expressed in the preface ...'on connaît les risques de la pluridisciplinarité aussi bien dans la divergence d'opinions que dans la dispersion de

has the rare benefit of both uniformity and expertise.

There is little to criticise in this admirable, informative and lucid textbook, which for my money is far and away the best available—unless you prefer a small compendium and a large computerised database.

JMS PEARCE

Essentials of Clinical Neurophysiology. By KARL E MISULIS. (Pp 306; Price: £60.00). 1993. ISBN 0-7506-9305-3. Oxford, Butterworth-Heinemann. Can be ordered from Reed Book Services Ltd, PO Box 5 Rushden NN10 9YX UK. (Please include £2.50 for postage and packaging).

The author aims this book at people new to neurodiagnostics and those who want to learn more about selected neurodiagnostic techniques. His goal is to provide the reader with a single source to guide competent performance and interpretation of neurophysiological tests. The aim is too ambitious and the results are disappointing.

This is a short, well laid-out book with separate sections on each electrophysiological technique including useful chapters on neurophysiological principles and troubleshooting. It is directed at the American reader. The electronics section is relevant, well explained and includes descriptions of circuit theory, amplifiers, filters, artifacts, noise and safety. The Polysomnography and Evoked and Polysomnography chapters are reasonable although there is no mention of Dermatomal SEPs or ERG. The main problems lie within the EEG and EMG sections.

The EEG chapters are let down by the paucity and poor quality of illustrations. Hypsarrhythmia is shown in sleep rather than the typical waking record and the Periodic Lateralised Epileptiform Discharges are somewhat bizarrely only illustrated from left sided channels. The technical aspects are well described and there is a good summary of maturational EEG changes. Ambulatory cassette monitoring and Video Telemetry are not discussed.

In the EMG section there are some useful illustrations showing recording and stimulation sites for peripheral nerves. There is also a helpful summary of the EMG/NCS approach to clinical problems. There are however a number of mistakes (eg. MUPs should be less than 10ms) and although the author acknowledges that the recommendations are his own view he suggests that they are not controversial. I think many clinical neurophysiologists would disagree with some of his opinions, for example that where SNAP amplitudes are reduced there is usually slowing of conduction velocity. The book is inadequately referenced and the bibliography is very poor.

I would only recommend this book to someone not wanting to do any clinical neurophysiology themselves; perhaps neurologists in training who wanted a brief overview might find it useful. For anyone with a real interest £60 could be better spent towards a more detailed and thorough text.

RH KANDLER

SHORT NOTICES

Readers may be interested in **Seizure**, the international journal of the **British Epilepsy Association** published by Bailliere Tindall Ltd.

Post-Viral Fatigue Syndrome (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis). Edited by RACHEL JENKINS and JAMES MOWBRAY. (Pp 463; Price: $137.50.) 1992. Chichester, John Wiley & Sons Ltd. ISBN 0-471-93879-3. Reviewed—see JNNP January 1992.

Recovery from Brain Damage: Reflections and Directions (Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology/Vol. 325). Edited by F D ROSE and D A JOHNSON. (Pp 216; Price: $69.50.) 1992. New York, Plenum Publishing Corp. ISBN 0-306-44344-9.

Serotonin, the Cerebellum and Ataxia. Edited by P TROUILLAS AND K FUXE (Pp 378; Price: $125.00) 1992. New York, Raven Press. ISBN 0-88167-957-7

Hemispheric Asymmetry: What's Right and What's Left (New Series: Perspectives in Cognitive Neuroscience). By JOSEPH B HELLIGE. (Pp 396; Price: £27.95.) 1993. London: Harvard University Press. ISBN 0-674-38730-9

Central and Peripheral 5-HT$_3$ Receptors (Series: Neuroscience Perspectives). Edited by MICHEL HAMON. Series Editor: PETER JENNER. (Pp 314; Price: £40.00.) 1992. Published by Academic Press. UK distributors: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, London. ISBN 0-12-322370-9

Annual Progress in Child Psychiatry and Child Development 1992: A Selection of the Year's Outstanding Contributions to the Understanding and Treatment of the Normal and Disturbed Child. Edited by M E HERTZIG AND E A FARBER. (Pp 645; Price: $86.00.) 1993. ISBN 0-87630-692-X. Published by Brunner/Mazel Inc. UK distributors: Raven Press, New York.

Violence: Basic and Clinical Science. Edited by CHRIS THOMPSON AND PHIL COWEN. (Pp 262; Price: £40.00.) 1993. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann. ISBN 0-7506-0926-5. (May be ordered direct from Reed Book Services Ltd, PO Box 5, Rushden NN10 9YX, UK. Please include £2.50 for postage and packing.)

Treatment and Care in Old Age Psychiatry. Edited by R LEVY, R HOWARD AND A BURNS. (Pp 246; Price: £38.00.) 1993. Petersfield, UK, Wrightson Biomedical Publishing Ltd. ISBN 1-871816-17-3

A Proper House: Bedford Lunatic Asylum 1812–1860. By BERNARD CASHMAN. (Pp 179; Price £7·95). North Bedfordshire Health Authority. 1992. ISBN 0-9513626-2-3

In their book, *The Hospital in History*, Lindsay Granshaw and Roy Porter indicate some of the reasons for the current attention being paid by professional historians to the growth of hospitals in the recent and more remote past. Their concerns tend to focus on the various factors bearing on the role of the hospital as one of several institutions developed in response to a complex of social needs, taking its place alongside the school, the prison and the factory.

Bernard Cashman is an orthopaedic surgeon who in retirement has engaged in local historical research and has written a history of Bedford General Hospital.

The work casts a long shadow over the modern movement towards the de-institutionalisation and the community care of the mentally ill. As such it is of more than historical interest.

Neuroanatomy: A Review with Questions and Explanations (A Little, Brown Review Book). By RICHARD S SNELL. (Pp 298 Illustrated; Price: £16·00). 1992. Boston Mass: Little, Brown & Co. U.K. Distributors: Longman Group UK Ltd., Harlow, Essex. ISBN 0-316-80246-8

Multiple Sclerosis: Research in Progress 1991–1992. Prepared on behalf of the International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies. Price: £90.00. ISBN 0-646-10946-4. This book includes details on virtually all current funded MS research in the world (900 projects from 28 countries). It is a reference which provides researchers and clinicians access to contemporary information on MS related research projects and funding details.

Biology of Depressive Disorders. Part A: A Systems Perspective. (The Depressive Illness Series Vol. 3). Edited by J J MANN and D J KUPFER. (Pp 272; Price: $45.00). 1993. New York, Plenum Publishing Corp. ISBN 0-306-44295-7.

Medical Issues and the Eating Disorders: The Interface (Brunner/Mazel Eating Disorders Monograph Series No. 7). Edited by A S KAPLAN and P E GARFINKEL. (Pp 256; Price: $42.50). 1993. New York, Raven Press. ISBN 0-87630-681-4.

Correction

In the article by Elizabeth McDonald, Helen Cope and Anthony David, *Cognitive impairment in patients with chronic fatigue: a preliminary study* (July 1993 issue of the journal) the labelling was incorrect. The figure should have been published as follows:

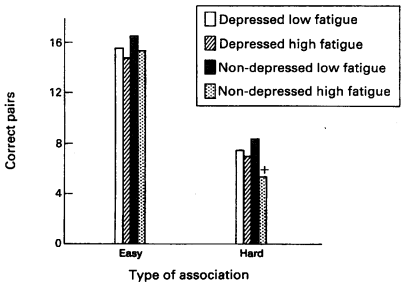

Figure 1 Performance on paired associates in high and low fatigue patients, with and without depressed mood. (+ p = 0·03, t test, two tailed.)