relation to the whole literature on spinal injury. The one prospective randomised control trial that has been shown to improve outcome following spinal injury (in relation to high dose methylprednisolone) is not mentioned. The numerous illustrations demonstrate almost all fractures of the dorsal and lumbar spine. The photographs and diagrams of the anterior and posterior immobilisation techniques are of high quality.

AD MENDELOW

Cerebellar Degenerations: Clinical Neurobiology. Edited by: ANDREAS PLATTAKIS (Pp 507; Price: Dfl 430.00, US\$ 210.00, UK£113.75). 1992. Dordrecht, Kluwer Academic Publishers Group. ISBN 0-7923-1490-5.

This book is a comprehensive multi-authored survey of the cerebellum in health and disease, from molecule to patient. There are no British contributions! It covers anatomy, neurochemical pathology, neurophysiology, the mighty mutant mice, eye movements, clinical classification, etiopathogenesis (whatever this horrible word means!). There is obviously something for everybody, but how much for anybody?

The intention of the book is to stimulate cross fertilisation between the clinical and basic sciences, but it is unlikely to achieve this. The individual sections are too long with no guide or overview. As often with multi-author texts, it reads like a number of separate independent reviews. The basic science and "etiopathogenesis" sections were too indigestible and intimidating for this clinician. The section on clinical aspects has some well reproduced MRI pictures but otherwise the text is rarely broken up apart from laborious tables with the familiar standard error bars.

Neurochemistry and molecular biology will not interest the clinician until they become of clinical importance. We all remember the dopamine deficiency in PD but who remembers the other neurochemical deficiencies? This ambitious book has been written too soon, since there is little direct clinical relevance of much of the basic science. It will not be a best seller and it is difficult to see who will rush out to buy it, whether clinician or scientist, and I suspect that much of the basic science data will be out of date soon.

Not a book for the busy clinician! Too detailed with too little or relevance and too long. (500 pages).

D BATEMAN

Pride and a Daily Marathon. By JONATHAN COLE (Foreword—Oliver Sachs) (Pp 194; Price: £14.99). 1991. London, Duckworth. ISBN 0-71562385-0.

At the age of 19, Ian Waterman developed a severe sensory neuropathy, resulting in almost total loss of position sense in the limbs. He became a "deafferented man". He might have remained unknown to us, another individual battling with serious disability and handicap, confronting, overcoming or being overcome by the various frustrations of living in a world with limited sympathy for such problems, had he not met Dr Jonathan Cole, a clinical neurophysiologist and a man with broad interests and erudition. As a result of

this interaction, Ian Waterman's story will join a number of classic case studies in a genre which includes Freud, Luria, Brodal, and of course Oliver Sachs, who has written the foreword.

Jonathan Cole has produced a painstaking, intricate account of Ian Waterman's story, mingling biography, science and philosophy. The biographical component details Ian Waterman's background, and describes the onset and evolution of his neurological symptoms. Jonathan Cole dwells on the details of the initial days, weeks and months of Ian's illness. We follow him through a series of good and bad experiences with nursing and medical staff. Some contacts with neurologists seem to have contributed: largely by stimulating Ian to prove their prognostics wrong! The account of Mr Waterman's prolonged struggle for recovery is illuminated by Jonathan Cole's reflections on the physiology of the nervous system and the pathophysiology of the disorder, and the recovery process. Aside from his struggle to overcome physical disability, Mr Waterman faced personal tragedy, and many periods of demoralisation and depression. Yet he was able to reassert his will and continue the struggle for independence and fulfilment. Dr Cole muses on that quality of pride which drives Ian Waterman, and which seems to contribute so much to the capacity of people with neurological disorders to overcome formidable obstacles? One suspects that the imperfections of health care and society often frustrate, but may also help to motivate some individuals. Most neurologists, and many other health care professionals, will wish to share Ian Waterman's journey and Jonathan Cole's reflections on the neurology and psychology of nerve injury. The writing is concise, lucid and entertaining. The book is nicely produced and reasonably priced. It will become a classic of its kind.

NIGEL LEIGH

Computers and Stereotactic Neurosurgery. (Contemporary Issues in Neurological Surgery Series). Edited by P J KELLY and B A KALL (Pp 365 Illustrated; Price: £95.00). 1992. Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. ISBN 0-86542-145-5

One of the great revolutions in neurosurgery has been the introduction of stereotactic techniques which have become increasingly important largely because of improvements in imaging and the ability to integrate sophisticated medical images with the stereotactic apparatus. This revolution continues with the expansion of computer imaging techniques which not only reveal the target co-ordinates in relation to the stereotactic system but also has the ability to demonstrate a large variety of lesions in three and even four dimensions. This book brings much of this work together.

Admittedly a great deal of the text has appeared elsewhere but the collation of this international expertise has been achieved very successfully. It deals with computer-based image processing with a particularly good description of the Analyze Software Package and goes on to describe computer-based stereotactic atlases, on-line analysis and functional mapping. The value of computer systems in surgical planning is covered extensively and there is a section on robotic systems.

A few of the chapters describe systems which are outmoded and appear extremely primitive when considered side by side with the very sophisticated systems described elsewhere in the book. There are a few muted warnings of the dangers of surgical sense being overwhelmed by sophisticated computerage but the breadth and future possibilities of these developments are obvious. The book is well bound and well printed but the illustrations are disappointingly drab. This is an interesting book and, although the systems it describes will be quickly superseded, it should certainly be in the library of any unit engaged in or entering the field.

ER HITCHCOCK

Textbook of Child Neurology. 4th Edition. By JOHN H MENKES (Pp 832; Price: £55.00). 1990. Pennsylvania USA, Lea & Febiger. UK Distrib: Williams & Wilkins Ltd. ISBN 0-8121-1266-0.

Menkes' Textbook of Child Neurology has become well established now as one of the small elite of texts covering this broad subject. In his introduction to this new edition Menkes draws attention to the difficulty that single authors or those with only a small cohort of contributors, have in keeping abreast of all the major developments within a field. In the 5 years since the publication of the 3rd edition there have been major developments in relation to the application of imaging, and particularly magnetic resonance imaging, to the nervous system and also the impact that has already occurred from the advances in molecular biology. He has attempted to integrate some of these and the illustrations of magnetic resonance imaging scattered through the text. There is a new introductory chapter on the neurological examination of the child and infant and potted summaries of some of the new investigative procedures and their potential value.

In addition to an update from the contributors to the 3rd edition, which include a very comprehensive review of infections of the nervous system by Marvin Weil, neurological manifestations of systemic diseases by Harry Chugani and disorders of mental development by Marcel Kinsbourne, Menkes has also enlisted the collaboration of a neurosurgeon, Kenneth Till, in the chapters on malformations of the central nervous system, post-natal trauma and injuries by physical agents, and tumours of the nervous system.

Some sections such as malformations, infections and metabolic diseases of the nervous system are covered in great detail whereas other sections provide a very broad baseline with relatively short vignettes on individual diseases.

I sought information on neurological aspects of incontinentia pigmenti. There was nothing in the text but a reference to Table 10-13 (page 571) which listed the basic components of the syndrome plus a reference (number 248) which was to the Doman-Delacato treatment of neurologically handicapped children (1968). In contrast Bretts textbook contained some 3 pages on the subject. On the other hand reference to schizencephaly provided a very comprehensive review of the subject, which in turn was unindexed and not visible in Brett's book.