the biology of dystrophin... has obscured a focused, scientific commitment to the needs of the patient... The main aim point of any book on the making of dystrophin, or even restoring normal muscular histology, is the successful treatment of skeletal and cardiac muscle affected boys hoping they will lead normal lives. This is a sense of urgency which is clear throughout the monograph.

This book can be recommended to every Neurologist and Scientist working in the field of Duchenne/Becker Muscular Dystrophy from the shelves and should be in the Library of all Departments who are charged with the care of these boys.

It is to be hoped that this series will continue.

WJK CUMMING


This volume sets out to be a new edition of "Epidemiology of Anencephalus and Spina Bifida" by Elwood and Elwood (1980), but events overtook it. In addition to updating the original body, including substantial advances in pre-natal diagnosis, it became necessary to review developments in the field of primary prevention, and the ethical and legal issues associated with neural tube defects (NTD).

Most of the book (more than twice as large as its predecessor) discusses the classical approaches to the epidemiology of NTD, each chapter reviewing the relevant literature in excess and ending with a summary and comment. The generous use of Figures and Tables helps the reader to grasp the tremendous amount of information presented.

In the field of primary prevention, the results of the MRC vitamin supplementation trial were published as the book approached completion. The authors have, however, included a comprehensive account of its confirmation of the protective effect of high dose folic acid against recurrence of NTD. They could not wait for the outcome of the Hungarian study showing prevention of first occurrence of NTD by low dose folic acid & multivitamins (Cezezel and Dudas, N Eng J Med 1992;327:1832-5).

The ethical and legal issues relating to prenatal diagnosis, pregnancy termination, clinical trials and post-natal treatment (or non-treatment) of babies with spina bifida are thoroughly and thoughtfully reviewed by Professor Alastair Campbell. I wish Chapter 15 had been entitled "Nutrition" rather than "Diet". There is more to the vitamin story than what people eat. Otherwise there is little to criticise. The book is beautifully produced and is a superb work of reference.

ANK ROSCH CUMMING


Behavioral endocrinology is written as an undergraduate text which reviews in a clear and interesting manner current knowledge of the effect of hormones on behaviour and of behaviour on the release of hormones. The main areas covered are sexual behaviour, parental behaviour, aggressive behaviour, the stress response, ingestive behaviour and sleep rhythms. The main species covered are rodents but a wide number of other species are covered from invertebrates, to which a whole chapter is devoted, to frogs, snakes, lizards, birds and hyenas. The comparative approach makes for enjoyable reading and indicates how the influence of hormones on behaviour is inversely related to the development of the cerebral cortex. So what then does the book have to say about human behavioural endocrinology?

In the area of clinical psychoendocrinology some parts are disappointing. It is true that there are few findings that would merit detailed discussion but the endocrinology of depression and the behavioural consequences of Cushin's Syndrome would have merited a chapter in their own right but yet are hardly mentioned. There are also areas which provide useful "bridges" between basic neuroscience and clinical endocrinology. Thus the development of learned helpless—an animal model for depression—is dependent upon the activation of central glucocorticoid receptors. If undergraduates reading such a textbook do not know of the existence of such bridges they will never cross them.

For someone wanting an introduction to the effects of hormones on behaviour in the animal kingdom this is a very useful book and a very enjoyable read. It is not an ideal text for trainee psychiatrists or neurologists: but then it was not written for them.

S CHECKLEY


This multi-authored volume provides extensive coverage of cerebellar disease under major sections such as structural, neoplastic, vascular, degenerative, infectious, demyelinating, and metabolic categories. There are many strong contributions including chapters on embryology, anatomy and imaging diagnosis. Tumours, von Hippel-Lindau disease, radiation therapy and paraneoplastic disease are all covered well; for example I found this section helpful to see an account of the autoimmune aspects of paraneoplasia, and tabulation of the different cerebellar, antibodies. For the vascular specialist four chapters on cere-bellar infarctions, haemorrhage, venous disease and transcranial Doppler seem the most impressive and reflect much of the recent interest in this area. The section on degenerative disease was clearly written, answering the most demanding question of whether the book is of relevance. It is a pleasure to recommend this book as it touches on all aspects of cerebellar disease and as such is an excellent book for the academic and clinical neurologist.

This book is well written and has a comprehensive index which makes the book very useful for quick reference. Throughout the volume there is a useful and comprehensible review of the literature on the subject being discussed. The book is beautifully presented and is of a high standard. The chapters are well structured and the authors are often in agreement on the important aspects of cerebellar disease under discussion.

The book is strongly recommended for all neurologists who are interested in cerebellar disease and for those involved in cerebellar research. However, it is much more than a reference work. It is a truly informative and enjoyable read.