culltic neuropathies. The text is notably successful in remaining up to date, with balanced accounts of the relationships between GQ1b antibodies and Miller Fisher syndrome, and between Campylobacter jejuni et coli, ganglioside antibodies, and neuropathy. Clear and up-to-the-minute treatment guidelines emerge from analyses of recent therapeutic trials for both CIDP and Guillain-Barré syndrome. Difficult and contentious issues are not avoided, such as the relationships between CIDP and demyelinating neuropathy in the context of para-proteinenaemia, and between multifocal motor neuropathy and CIDP. Unusually, excessive repetition is avoided.

In this, to conclude is little more that carcassing, but one or two shortcomings are apparent. It is mentioned, that “the main drawbacks of plasma exchange treatment [include] contraindications,” and that these amount to approximately 8% of cases, but what these are are not described. The entity of multifocal motor neuropathy with conduction block might more helpfully have been included in a clinical chapter rather than a neurological section. The recent and increasingly widely accepted classification of vasculitic disorders according to the size of the vessel involved is not included, and there is no mention of the pathological demonstration of the feature of leucocytoclastic change in vasculitis. Some of the running head titles are less than helpful. These are quibbles. Large series of undiagnosed vasculitic neuropathy consistently show that further investigation reveals an inflammatory aetiology in 20-25% of cases, findings which emphasise clearly the need to stay abreast of these important and often underdiagnosed disorders. Inflammatory Neuropathies is up to date in a way that major conventional text books cannot emulate; it is concise, readable and affordable. It is highly recommended.

NEIL SCOLDING


Every practicing neurologist should have access to this excellent tome. It contains a great deal of detail on many aspects of myasthenia which is generally accessible, well set out and extensively referenced. Of the 19 chapters, there are those concerned with diagnosis, immunology, electrophysiology, pathogenesis and treatment of myasthenia gravis. But for me, the best sections were those by Andrew Engel on congenital myasthenic syndromes and that by Elrontgin and Newsom-Davis on the Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome. There is also a very useful table of medications implicated in human drug-induced neuromuscular disorders, containing information both on clinical presentations and mechanisms of actions.

In such a multi-author volume it is inevitable that some repetition and controversial surfaces. Although most of these points are then, I believe that many practitioners would take issue with Robert Sergott’s suggestion that anticholinesterase medication is quite unsuccessful in ocular myasthenia. There is also precious little epidemiological information in the book, and readers searching for this are better advised to consult the recent issue of Neurology Clinics, which is also concerned with myasthenia.

But these issues are minor in the overall context of an authoritative and enjoyable read.

JOHN ZAJICEK


This is an introductory text of about 200 pages with more than 200 references, written by a neurologist with considerable experience in the basic principles of the EEG and its clinical application. It contains an accessible description of the physics of EEG acquisition and of the resultant wave forms. The clinical section is necessarily concise for the size of book. Some important points are highlighted in capitals which is probably unnecessary for most readers. There is a final chapter covering topics of special interest which includes a North American view of medicolegal aspects. For neurologists in training, therefore, this provides a simple and brief introduction to the basic principles of EEG.

SIMON BONIFACE


It is always a pleasure to read a textbook that has obviously been written by practising clinicians with hands-on experience of their subject matter. This book comes from an institution that has seen an enormous quantity of HIV disease, and provides a comprehensive yet readable reference source which rarely strays from being genuinely useful.

The book as a whole is well structured; apart from dealing with every aspect of the general management of HIV patients, specific opportunistic infections and malignancies, there are sections on global epidemiology and preventative, legal and ethical issues. There is also a concise and well written account of the molecular virology of HIV with sufficient detail to allow the “non-molecular” clinician to understand issues of pathogenesis, antiretroviral therapy and vaccine design. The quality of the individual chapters and articles is very high; in particular they are rarely overlong, so that it is easy to find answers to specific clinical questions. Some of the material on legal and economic issues is specific to the United States, but this represents a very small proportion of the book; the sections on prevention, education and ethical issues contain much that is relevant to British or European patients.

Colour plates in textbooks can be helpful and unhelping, but this book provides an exception with a small collection of clear and genuinely useful photographs. The remainder of the text is singularly lacking in illustrations. Personally I welcome this move away from the trend towards “Art for art’s sake” in medical publication, and back to the presentation of relevant and up to date information in a digestible systematic way. Other smaller and cheaper books that deal with the clinical care of HIV patients as well as this book does (in particular The Medical Management of AIDS from the same authors), but this new volume is comprehensive, readable and well referenced, and I look forward to using it.

DAVID WILKS


This multi-authored American textbook sets out to address the imbalance which the editor believes is present in the teaching of today's medical students, namely, that in contrast to the large amount of scientific information to be learnt regarding disease processes, there is little time allocated to teaching students fundamental principles of human behaviour and psychological aspects of patient care. The book concentrates on five areas of interest. Early chapters discuss issues regarding the doctor-patient relationship and are helpfully illustrated with case histories. Important issues such as the role of stress, culture and ethnicity are discussed clearly and concisely. The second section of the book introduces the two major schools of psychological theories of human behaviour: psychoanalytical, and behavioural. Section three describes normal human development through the life-cycle and includes excellent chapters on adolescence and the family. The penultimate section is an introduction to the biological basis of human behaviour and psychiatry. These comprehensive and excellent chapters are said to be a “prodrrom to the concluding chapter” entitled “Supportive psychological care of the medically ill: A synthesis of the biopsychosocial approach in medical care". It is a pity, therefore that this chapter works less well. After such depth and erudition in earlier chapters it seems somewhat superficial by contrast, perhaps reflecting the rather early stage in the development of "a true psychobiological integration of the behavioural sciences".

This book provides an excellent introduction to human behaviour for medical students but also has much to offer junior psychiatrists and allied mental health professionals.

CAROL GREGORY


It has become clear that structural and functional imaging are complementary in