outlet syndrome and birth injuries. The last three chapters deal respectively with reconstitu-tion of nerve, dissection and tumours involving nerve. In the first Appendix the clinical evidence is sum-marised; in the second, additional methods for testing muscle power are described. The last contains the lecture written by Sydney Sunderland and read after his death before the Sunderland Society of Seattle.

The book is illustrated throughout with numerous drawings, including pages of colour prints, which are both admirable and clear; equally instructive are the numerous drawings by Eugene New, the modern Leonardo of medical illustration. The book is extensive, bearing all the signs of its origin from authors with immense practical experience, thoroughly familiar with all aspects of their subject.

Of particular interest to aficionados of brachial plexus surgery is the use in 18 cases of the posterolateral approach to the plexus, facilitating exposure of the most proximal part of the root and avoiding an approach through a region scarred by injury or previous operation. The particular advantages of this approach in gunshot wounds of the plexus, in which Dr Kline has unrivalled experience, is stressed. As the sub-title implies, the book is concerned with the gross and microscopic pathology of lesions, clinical features, operative findings, techniques and results. Some of the ideas and methods are familiar; some are new; all are well tried. It is a heroic achievement to have done all this work and to have analysed and presented it in a form so well ordered and readable. All those working in this field should have this book as a constant companion; all those working in adjacent fields should know where to lay hands on a copy. As a matter of form it is necessary to make some criticisms. A rather weighing critic-ism is that both authors are well known as speculative as well as operative masters and thus consideration of the mechanisms of sensibility and of pain, of the role of the muscle spindles and of the pathology of the outlet syndrome is perhaps of little time one might have been better to give "iatrogenic" lesions a separate chapter than to distribute them in the various sections, but they are all there anyway. Some may have hoped for a more vigorous approach to injection injuries, but the possibility of such an approach is at any rate adumbrated. None of these trifling criticisms detracts in any way from the value of a great piece of work from the debt of gratitude owed to the authors and their asso-ciates by peripheral neurologists and neuro-surgeons all over the world.

GEORGE BONNEY

Sensory Neuropathies


At first glance Sensory Neuropathies might appear as tad arcane, a clinical topic not commonly troubling the jobbing neurologist. And a "Book of the Meeting" format, papers ranging from Morphometry in greater auricular nerves to investigating Vitamin oxide causes of peripheral distal axonopathy in rats, costing US$ 79-00 and taking five years to produce (the meeting was held in 1990) offer small comfort to the second glance.

Scratch the surface and find a gem. Well . . . there are good things in the book. Sensory neuropathies are not so rare—considering the many patients with collagen vascular disorders and hereditary syn-dromes are the commonest explanations, and there are excellent reviews of acquired sensory neuropathies (Mitumoto and Wilbourn, Bock and Cornblath, drug induced neuropathies (Sluga et al), and inflammatory sensory neu-ropathies (Hughes). But the inconsistent quality—some are as expected as some conventional scientific papers (Methods, Patients, Results, etc), makes for an uncomfortable read. The referencing is also inconsistent, some listing serially others alphabetically. And I think this reviewer rather hard justify to publication so long after the meeting. The editors claim that the "contributions of this volume still represent a valuable reference", but this is hard to sustain. Many papers have been published as useful and definitive papers elsewhere (for example, Donahay and Thomas on Autosomal recessive sensory neu-ropathy with small myeli-nated fibres and Schindler on Neuraxial dystrophy due to deficient alpha N-acetylgalac-tosaminidase). A few others might also justify publication in conventional journals, where they would be more accessible to the small audience of interest. Conversely, the very high quality of some review articles does not justify purchase of a monograph by the gen-eral neurologist to whom they would be most useful. Despite these highlights, it is hard therefore to recommend this book.

NEIL SCOLDING


This short volume of 352 pages is the sec-ond part of volume I, being preceded by The Genetics of Schizophrenia. It seems to me that these two volumes cover the contribution of epidemiological method to gene, environ-ment and gene-environment effects on the expression of mental disorders throughout the lifespan, from the early ages of which will increase enormously over the next decade.

This volume sets the current scene with contributions from the international acade-mic community and covers adolescence and adulthood, including late life.

Brian Cooper's review of epidemiology and of cognitive decline is wide ranging and excellent. The second chapter provides a useful introduction to the area of psychiatric disease and physical illness—the domain of the increasingly recognised specialism of liaison psychiatry. The section on epidemiologi-cal evidence for the association of physical disease and psychiatric disorder is short and would have benefited from a table systemati-cally reviewing methodology. The discussion on sample bias and whether association indi-cates causation is thorough and useful.


This is one of a series of books sponsored by the International Academy for Biomedical and Drug Research, based on international scientific meetings. This volume followed a