workshop in Capri, in May 1993. As treatment of neurodegenerative diseases is still largely experimental, most of the topics relate to molecular mechanisms of degeneration; epidemiological background; animal models; clinical diagnosis; and the theoretical basis of potential pharmacological treatments. However, there are a small number of chapters describing clinical trials of pharmacological intervention, and a small number relating to other potential interventions, for example, one on neural transplantation and one on the potential uses of neurotrophins.

The fly cover summary claims that this book is a "comprehensive review of both the experimental and clinical advances in our understanding of Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, ischaemic brain damage and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease". This seems an exaggerated claim, as this is in fact the proceedings of a meeting and is neither comprehensive nor a review. Indeed, it is a collection of chapters, each of which could stand as a separate paper or essay, with little binding them together and no conclusions or synthesis. There has been little attempt by the editors to organise this volume in a logical way and the presentation of the chapters has not been standardised: some are written as short scientific papers, others as reviews, and even abbreviations and style of referencing vary. All these factors make it rather difficult to access information. However, having said this, many of the items are useful at an individual level, particularly those relating to the molecular mechanisms of excitotoxicity, the uses of radical scavengers and glutamate receptor antagonists, and the molecular genetics of Alzheimer's disease. Overall, this volume provides one with feel about current thinking on the pharmacological aspects of this subject, but it is not a book I would expect to refer to frequently.

ANNE ROSSER

Therapy with Botulinum Toxin. Edited by JOSEPH JANKOVIC and MARK HALLETT. (Pp 656; price \$195.00). Published by Marcel Dekker Inc, New York. 1994. ISBN 0-8247-8824-9.

Handbook of Botulinum Toxin Treatment. Edited by PETER MOORE. (Pp 289; price £59.50). Published by Blackwell Science, Oxford. 1995. ISBN 0-6320-3616-8.

In the past 10 years a large number of neurologists and ophthalmologists have gained a great deal of practical personal experience of the use of botulinum toxin in the treatment of various movement disorders. They have shared this knowledge at scientific meetings but until now there has been no comprehensive source for reference or manual for practice. Both of these books set out to redress this deficiency and they are both very welcome additions to the literature.

Both books give clinical descriptions of

the conditions suitable for injection treatment and brief accounts of other methods of management. There are detailed accounts of injection techniques and doses the illustrations of the cervical muscle anatomy being rather clearer in the English book. Strabismus, blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm and cervical and laryngeal dystonia are covered comprehensively. Upper limb dystonia and spasticity are also well covered. More novel indications receive less space and some—cerebral palsy, therapeutic ptosis and oscillopsia—are better dealt with in the English volume while sphincter problems and facial wrinkles receive more in the American.

The American book is based on the Consensus Development Conference sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration in 1990 but most of the chapters have been updated with references up to 1993. Like all multi-author books particularly in rapidly advancing fields there is some overlap and repetition and there are analyses of relatively small series of patients which characterise the introduction of any new therapeutic technique. The foreword is by Alan B Scott, the ophthalmologist who first used the toxin on a patient with strabismus in 1977 and contains an interesting personal historical perspective by Edward J Schantz, the toxicologist who first worked on the toxin in 1944 and was responsible for the early supplies to Scott.

The English volume is considerably smaller and shows more consistency of style indicating firmer editorial control. The section devoted to basic science and toxicology is much briefer although coming a year later it is able to give a clearer account of the sites of action of the different botulinum toxins. The appendix contains a useful list of resources and patient organisations.

One or other of these books is an essential companion for anyone starting an injection clinic or expanding his repertoire into the less common indications for this important and exciting addition to the neurological therapeutic armoury. Dr Moore's book will be in my clinic and probably open but I am pleased to be able to refer to the American volume when preparing lectures on the subject.

JOHN PILLING

Neural Control of Movement. Edited by WILLIAM R FERRELL and UWE PROSKE. (Pp 311). Published by Plenum Publishing, London, 1995. ISBN 0-306-45016-X.

I am not a fan of conference proceedings. Too many are collections of second hand manuscripts of already published work, or worse, badly written papers of dubious quality which would never pass for publication in a reputable Journal. This volume therefore came as a delightful surprise and I read it from cover to cover with fascination.

It is not, in spite of its title, a general source book on movement control. Only one article (but that a very good one) mentions

the cerebral cortex, and none address topics such as modelling of the nervous control of three dimensional limb movements which is so popular these days. The main themes are locomotion, and the behaviour of sensory receptors. Of the two, the chapters on locomotion are probably the most interesting since they deal not only with vertebrate systems, but also with the beautiful detailed studies of neural circuitry in invertebrates. When seen together, such work provides a powerful insight into the mechanisms of locomotion. Studies of human walking are not included in this compilation. This is unfortunate, but perhaps only an indication of the wide gap that separates the purely descriptive human work from the neurophysiological detail studied in animals. The chapters on sensory receptors are good, but often tend to focus on minutiae which, although of interest to experts in the field, are less attractive to those who wish to use this collection as an up-to-date source of general concepts.

Finally, it is interesting to note the very small number of articles produced from authors in the United States, despite the fact that neuroscience there is more vigorous than in any other country in the world. Perhaps North American neuroscientists think that these are quaint backwaters of research, lacking all the excitement of modern imaging techniques. If so, then perhaps the present volume will bring some of the excitement of the field to their attention as well as the possible benefits that such research could bring to the large numbers of people who have difficulties in posture and locomotion.

JOHN ROTHWELL

SHORT NOTICES

Readers may be interested in:

Seminars in Neurology, June 1995. Vol. 15. No. 2. "Funny Spells". Guest Editor Randolph W Evans. (Pp 225; \$35). Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, New York. ISBN 0271-8235.

Cambridge Medical Reviews. Neurobiology and Psychiatry; Neuroimaging. Edited by David Dawbarn and James McCulloch. (Pp 178; £50.00). Published by Oxford University Press, Oxford 1995. ISBN 0-521-45365-8 (hardback).

Continuous Spikes and Waves During Slow Sleep. Electrical Status Epilepticus During Slow Sleep. Edited by A Beaumanoir *et al.* (Pp 260; £32.00). Published by John Libbey and Co Ltd, London 1995. ISBN 0-86196-488-8.