

orthopaedic surgeons. Each chapter provides a candid review of the literature.

The quality of the articles presented as chapters is very good. There is a component of redundancy within the chapters.

The first article, entitled "Back Pain in the Paediatric Patient" provides a sound approach highlighting the differential diagnoses. Unfortunately the chapter stands as a separate article, ignoring the content of subsequent chapters relevant to the discussion.

Chapters reviewing spine fractures, sports injuries, and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy provide concise information not readily accessible in one reference.

The remaining chapters provide well-referenced material and clinical approaches, reflecting the authors' excellent command of literature. A surprising amount of information about operative techniques is included without elucidating the pre-requisites, indications and contraindications relevant to the discussion.

The index is adequate for the topics covered.

The book is a clearly written, readable reference providing an informative clinical review of paediatric spinal disorders. The book will be a welcome resource for the resident, general orthopaedist, paediatric surgeon, and other specialists interested in spinal problems in the child and adolescent.

*Gerhard N. Kiefer
Calgary, Alberta*

MOVEMENT DISORDERS. A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY. 1990. By William J. Weiner, Anthony E. Lang. Published by Futura Publishing Company, Inc., New York. 735 pages. \$143.00 Cdn. approx.

This review is written in entirety by the two authors, which makes the style in the 13 chapters of the book uniform. They have covered all the disorders conventionally regarded as "Movement Disorders". Nearly one-third of the book deals with Parkinson syndrome which is the major source of disability and has been the most widely studied entity so far. Where a given subject is not covered in depth, there is an extensive list of references which would facilitate further studies.

The style, contents and references make this volume closer to a refereed journal review than to standard neurology textbook. They have discussed the topics in light of the literature evidence and editorialized minimally. Because the knowledge in movement disorders is advancing at a rapid pace, no review can be strictly up to date. The information in this volume is valid up to mid 1987. The authors are well known and well connected with other movement disorders experts. That has permitted them to incorporate information which is not yet in the press. Hence the "personal communication" reference is used frequently. Each of them is a member of DATATOP Study (which will have major impact on movement disorders in the future) and they have provided a glimpse of that. In the appendix, they have noted several movement disorder rating scales. That provides a valuable guide to clinical investigators and will be helpful to better understand the movement disorder literature. There are 61 tables, some quite long and comprehensive. These tables are a useful source of review at a glance.

This is a highly useful review for neurology trainees. If not the entire book, I strongly recommend that all neurology residents read the first chapter to understand some of the fundamen-

tal concepts in movement disorders. The book will also be a valuable source of reference for the practising neurologists who may wish to pursue further investigations or treatment in unusual movement disorders from time to time.

The authors are to be complimented for their extensive efforts in producing this volume. By and large, they have succeeded in their stated objective. While I have no criticism, I have a recommendation. In the event they were to update this volume, I suggest that at the end of discussion dealing with a complex issue where the literature evidence is diverse, they should not shy away from making a brief editorial summary based on their own views. That would be of special value to the trainees.

This book is highly recommended for all libraries that serve the neurological residency and movement disorder fellowship programs and every practising neurologist who sees movement disorder cases should have an easy access to it.

*A.H. Rajput
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE. 1990. (Series: Current Trends in Neurosciences). Edited by Adachi M. and Sher J.H. Published by Igaku Shoin. 348 pages. \$128.00 Cdn.

This book enters an arena which has a number of recent competitors. It is not intended to be encyclopaedic, but is instead a concise review of certain aspects of particular interest to the authors. The opening chapter takes the reader through a review of normal ultrastructure. The approach is common sense and conventional and will provide the uninitiated with basic information. The second chapter concerns tissue culture and its application in human diseases. This is an important area as the technique moves from the basic research to clinical studies. Unfortunately, the delay in publication seems to have been excessive, since a summary of advances within the last 4 years are lacking and the bibliography is similarly dated. A section on physiologic, biochemical and ultrastructural changes associated with denervation is unusual in this type of review and provides a different and novel approach. The reader seeking clinical information on the diseases causing denervation will not find it here. This is no great problem since clinical descriptions are readily found in other texts.

The clinical entities begin with a description of polymyositis and inflammatory disorders. In the introduction the editors state that the chapter is written in the context of current concepts of autoimmunity, but little attention is given to recent work. There is no mention of HLA typing or of the possibilities of molecular mimicry, only one sentence on muscle antibodies and a brief statement about lymphocyte types. The chapter does provide a good review of the older work and a clinical description of the disease.

This section on muscular dystrophies is short and, again, the publication delay is evident. A sentence about dystrophin is appended to the end of two or three of the paragraphs in the description of Duchenne dystrophy, but they are not part of the integral description. Two additional chapters have been added to the book describing some of the recent work in genetics and in the discovery of dystrophin to remedy this.

One of the best chapters in the book is by Hans Goebel on congenital myopathies. He gives a thoughtful and comprehensive description of these interesting illnesses. Another chapter which