clinical disorders. Those interested in clinical disorders may also find the book "Handbook of Ataxia Disorders" by Thomas Klockgether, 2000 (published by Marcel Dekker) to be of use. However, any book on the ataxias cannot keep up with the rapid advance in genetic knowledge. For example, the Manto/Pandolfo book, with a publishing date of 2002, has chapters on Spino Cerebellar Ataxias 1-8. As of April 2002, seventeen spino cerebellar ataxias have been classified.

A second strength of the book is its presentation. All chapters read well and are appropriately succinct, which is presumably the result of judicious editing. The occasional use of color figures throughout the book is helpful especially in the chapters on neuroanatomy and stroke, and for figures of histology sections. I encountered one small problem: the index, although extensive at 16 pages, did not always direct me to the appropriate place in the text where the word of interest occurred.

A major weakness of this book is its cost. Although one expects big glossy text books to be expensive, $362 is going to be above buying threshold for many people. Pity, because in these times of information overload it is convenient (or even essential) to have one definitive book on the shelf for reference without having to expend time trudging to the library or navigating through the internet. For those interested in the cerebellum, this book is the best comprehensive reference source currently available.

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Disorders of Voluntary Muscle. 2001. Seventh edition. Edited by George Karpati, David Hilton-Jones and Robert C. Griggs. Published by Cambridge University Press. 775 pages. C$346.00 approx.

The book is divided up into four sections titled The Scientific Basis of Muscle Disease (11 chapters extending over 215 pages), Methods of Investigation of Muscle Disease (5 chapters extending over 127 pages), Description of Muscle Disease (18 chapters extending over 352 pages), and The Principles of Management of Muscle Disease (2 chapters extending over 49 pages). A total of 55 authors contributed to the book.

In the Preface, a number of statements are made which lead the reader to expect that, as they read on, they will find:

- the latest information on the etiology and pathogenesis of diseases of skeletal muscle,
- pertinent summaries of the scientific advances in molecular biology, developmental biology, immunopathology, mitochondrial biology, ion channel dynamics, cell membrane and signal transduction science and imaging technology, and
- essential information on history taking and physical examination and informative illustrations.

It also states that if the reader is a practising physician (in neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, rheumatology, physiatry and other disciplines) they can expect:

- to find the material presented in a clinician-friendly format and
- by being familiar with the contents of this book, they should be able to maintain a state-of-the-art ability to diagnose and treat diseases of skeletal muscles with a sufficient understanding of their scientific basis.

Finally, it states that if the reader is a medical or graduate science student, a resident or a scientist, who wishes to familiarize themselves with muscle disease, then, this book will serve as a concise and comprehensive text for them.

After reviewing the book, my conclusion is that these goals have been admirably achieved.

In general, the text was easy to read and most chapters, even if read in isolation, allowed the reader to come away with an overview of the subject under discussion. The tables and diagrams, which appear frequently throughout the text, are useful. Most of the illustrations are in black and white. Unfortunately some are not in sharp focus (especially in the chapter on MRI and spectroscopy), thus diminishing their value. The quality of the technical editing is otherwise exceptional.

Now for some specific comments about a number of chapters. Chapter 17, on examination and investigation of patients, was very well done; chapter 18, on classification of muscle disease, reflects the rapid changes which are occurring in this domain; chapter 20, on the limb girdle dystrophies, demonstrates the progress which has been made in understanding and sorting out of these diseases; while chapter 29, on oxidative phosphorylation disease of muscle, shows how much more there is still to be done. Most of the chapters describing the various types of muscle disease presented a brief, focused, clinical description of the diseases, which I thought was very useful. This was not the case in chapter 19 on the dystrophinopathies, a chapter which was otherwise a very comprehensive review of the subject.

As a clinician who has been involved with muscle disease patients for more than 25 years, the two chapters I found most exciting in this wonderful book were chapter 2, on the developmental biology of skeletal muscle, and chapter 3, on the molecular and cellular biology of muscle. My excitement came not only from the new information I gained from reading these comprehensive reviews, but from being able to see how fast this field is moving (as witnessed by the fact that roughly three-quarters of the references listed are from material published beginning in 1995). I believe the time is fast-approaching when we will begin to understand some of our longstanding clinical observations (for example, something as basic as why certain diseases produce certain patterns of muscle involvement) as well as being able to help our patients through the development of treatments targeted at restoring disturbed basic mechanisms underlying the various diseases.

In summary, this is an excellent book, it is easy to read, it is remarkably comprehensive and as current as any textbook is ever going to be. I would recommend it highly to any neurologist or any neurological trainee. I have my copy in a location where I keep books that I need to have available for easy reference. I know I will be referring to it frequently.

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Epilepsy and Movement Disorders. 2002. Edited by Renzo Guerrini, Jean Aicardi, Frederick Andermann, Mark Hallet. Published by Cambridge University Press. 557 pages. C$193.40 approx.

Although traditionally classed as separate entities in neurology it can at times be difficult to clinically differentiate between epilepsy and movement disorders. The boundaries, which distinguish these