and of immunofluorescence and immunoperoxidase techniques. Comparable analyses incorporating these newer methods will undoubtedly follow.

Stemming directly from the present volume and incorporated in the papers to which I refer above is the application to synovial diagnosis of the approach that is coming to be called 'probability diagnosis', an advance in histopathology that reflects the anxiety of many contemporary investigators to apply all that is best in statistics and computer technology to the interpretation of the often difficult problems posed by synovial biopsies. The results are a resounding success; they vindicate Professor Soren's dedicated and time-consuming research, encouraging the wider use of biopsy in differential clinical diagnosis and offering better hope for tissue studies as a sound basis for the control of therapy and for the establishment of prognosis.

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References

- ¹ Cooper N S, Soren A, McEwan C, Rosenberger J L. Diagnostic specificity of synovial lesions. *Hum Pathol* 1981; **12**: 314-28.
- ² Rosenberger J L, Cooper N S, Soren A, McEwan C. A statistical approach to the histopathologic diagnosis of synovitis. *Hum Pathol* 1981; **12**: 329-37.

Rehabilitation in the Rheumatic Diseases. Clinics in Rheumatic Diseases. Vol. 7. No. 2. Ed. D. Woolf. Pp. 250. £10.00. W. B. Saunders: Eastbourne. 1981.

This book gives an account of the help available from the various disciplines, including nursing, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, and from voluntary organisations in the rehabilitation of arthritic patients. There are useful chapters dealing with footwear, appliances, and rehabilitation of the young and of the elderly arthritic. But one is left with an impression that the editor had difficulty finding material for 250 pages. Electrodiagnosis seems out of place and the introductory chapters on aims and problems should have been shortened and translated into basic English. Nevertheless, trainees in rheumatology should make themselves familiar with much of the information contained in the book.

M. WILKINSON

Neuromuscular Diseases: A Practical Approach to Diagnosis and Management. By M. Swash and M. S. Schwartz. Pp. 316. DM.110. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1981.

The authors' stated intention in writing this book is to provide a description of the clinical, electromyographic, and pathological features of the neuromuscular diseases, integrated in such a way as to assist their management. The first section of the book describes methods of examination and investigation, together with an account of compensatory

mechanisms found in skeletal muscle. There are then separate parts devoted to diseases of the anterior horn cell, the peripheral nerve, muscle itself, and the neuromuscular junction.

The book is presumably intended for those specialists dealing with neuromuscular disease, and therefore must stand comparison with Walton's *Disorders of Voluntary Muscle*, the fourth edition of which has recently appeared. It has one advantage in this respect, in that it is not a multi-author text. This advantage is sustained, however, only if the authors are able to cover the wide area of the subject with equal facility. Furthermore, the stated intentions of the book must be sustained by a balanced view of the clinical, electrophysiological, and pathological aspects of the subject.

It is in assessing these aspects that some doubts may be expressed. For example, among the figures illustrating the text pathological sections account for well over half. Many of these, particularly the electron micrographs, are of excellent quality. Clinical photographs on the other hand amount to a paltry 10, and these are generally of poor quality. A further concern is the amount of text devoted to the neuropathic disorders, some 67 pages of a volume reaching 300. It is in this section that there is a sense of abbreviation which contradicts the aim of the text. For example, in discussing carpal tunnel syndrome the authors fail to discuss the diagnostic value of the median-ulnar sensory action potential amplitude ratio. Their appraisal of the work by Payan on the EMG diagnosis of ulnar neuropathy is discursive to the point of confusion, while radiation plexopathy is hardly mentioned. They make the surprising, because erroneous, statement that the lateral plantar branch of the posterior tibial nerve is purely sensory, and fail to give adequate details of the electrophysiological tests necessary to diagnose tarsal tunnel syndrome.

If a book of this nature is to fulfil a need, it must surely provide such a wealth of information on the topics covered that recourse to original papers on the subject can become something of a luxury rather than a necessity. One feels that the aims of the authors might have been better realised if the neuropathic section had been eliminated completely and the writing of the definitive text on primary muscle disease attempted.

G. D. PERKIN

Epidemiology of Osteoarthritis. Symposium, Paris, June 1980. Ed. J. G. Peyron. Pp. 250. No price given. CIBA-GEIGY: Paris. 1981.

This soft-back records the 31 papers (10 in French with English summaries) presented at an international symposium held in Paris in June 1980. In spite of the title there is remarkably little that can be described as epidemiological, though Valkenburg reports an impressive study of the relationship between the clinical and radiological ascertainment of osteoarthritis in a Netherlands population sample. The symposium is really a pot-pourri. Papers and reviews deal, inter alia, with subjects as diverse as comparative pathology, osteoarthritis in occupational groups, cartilage biochemistry, diagnostic criteria in coxarthrosis,