perfusion imaging, or, use of MRI in situations like acute spinal trauma. Even current sequences, like FLAIR, or single-shot fast-spin echo are not mentioned in the text.

There are several errors in the images – e.g. a deep parietal tumor is termed a plexus papilloma, a suprasellar cistern mass is termed a colloidal cyst – the displaced third ventricle is seen well on the T1 coronal image included, and a jugular fossa/petrous bone mass is termed a meningioma (when the favoured diagnosis would be glomus jugulare). In a book detailing the typical appearance of these tumors, this would not be representative. Similarly, there are personal cases described e.g. residual pituitary macroadenoma, and post-meningioma follow-up in the section on MR controls following therapy (meaning postoperative follow-up). Several errors of spelling were also seen.

Several outmoded techniques were mentioned, such as tomography of the IAC. The mention of techniques such as gas cisternography is not felt to be current, especially in a book on MRI. Similarly, some of the mentioned uses of angiography e.g. venous sinus thrombosis, are outdated, or have been superseded by MRA. The section on spinal trauma describes the use of plain films.

The section on pediatric imaging is scanty, with nine images, and ten pages of text. For a supposedly current text, the image quality is poor – there are very noisy spinal images, and several low-flip angle gradient echo images are shown that are not representative of images obtainable with current scanners. As well, multi-coil images are not included or described in the section on spinal imaging.

In summary then, I would not recommend this book for purchase or reference.

Don Lee
London, Ontario

THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHIES. 2001. Edited by Alan E.H. Emery. Published by Oxford University Press. 304 pages. C$184.50 approx.

The Editor is a veteran scientist and practitioner in the field of clinical genetics. He has made many valuable contributions in this field, and a fascinating form of muscular dystrophy bears his name (Emery-Dreifuss dystrophy). His well-known dedication to, and familiarity with, the field of myology is reflected by this book.

Myology, perhaps more than most other fields of medicine, has greatly benefited from the momentous advancement of molecular science. Therefore, it is a particularly rewarding area in which to write updates. Indeed, this feature is very evident throughout the book. The Editor's introductory chapter appropriately highlights and emphasizes this aspect of myology. The various disease entities are grouped into traditional categories. Thus, we have chapters on congenital muscular dystrophies, Duchenne dystrophy, Becker dystrophy, Emery-Dreifuss myopathy, the limb girdle dystrophies, fascioscapulchumeral dystrophy, distal myopathies and oculopharyngeal dystrophy. The clinical phenotypes, molecular background, pathology, and investigative techniques are well-outlined. The literature review is up-to-date. Special chapters are devoted to management and treatment modalities. Since this is a multi-author book, there is considerable variability of the overall caliber of the various chapters. Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which is the work of the Editor, stands out as a particularly well-written chapter.

This book does not pretend to be an academic masterpiece with profound scientific details about pathophysiology and spectacular microscopic illustrations. However, it is a very useful and concise as well as up-to-date text that contains sufficient modern and practical information for various specialists and students. They will find it user-friendly and cost-effective in everyday practice, and in preparing for qualifying examinations.

George Karpati
Montreal, Quebec

HANDBOOKOF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS. 2002. By Khurram Bashir and John N. Whitaker. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 248 pages. C$64.00 approx.

This handbook is directed towards individuals who need "an efficient introduction, a rapid review, or an accessible reference to the various aspects of multiple sclerosis". The authors are well-respected clinician/researchers who have provided a comprehensive handbook relating to multiple aspects of MS, including the following: classification of demyelinating disease, historical aspects, epidemiology and genetics, pathology and pathogenesis, clinical symptoms and signs, diagnosis, management, special situations, and a number of valuable appendices outlining measurement tools for disability or impairment.

The text is not formally referenced, however, suggested reading lists at the end of each chapter are provided. I was pleased to see that the new diagnostic (McDonald) criteria are described and discussed. There is a very good section on basic immunology of MS as well as comments related to new MRI imaging technologies, such as magnetic resonance spectroscopy and magnetization ratios. Included in the text are many tables and diagrams, including some schema that adequately depict aspects of pathogenesis and pathology as well as treatment approaches. There are MRIs that are well-reproduced and demonstrate some of the MRI features of this disease. Much of the text is in point form, which is quite easy to read. There is a very interesting section on management of MS symptoms and considerable detail is also given to disease course modifying therapies relating to the level of evidence that supports these.

My criticisms regarding this handbook are only minor. I would have liked to see a more complete discussion regarding the role of axonal injury in the pathology and pathogenesis of MS, as this is an area that has come under increasing scrutiny over the last several years. There is, indeed, now felt to be a neurodegenerative element of MS and how this is related to inflammation is yet uncertain. The section on genetics is certainly very cursory and there is no discussion on the complex nature of the genetics of MS, or the difficulties inherent in identifying susceptibility genes. This is an area of intense interest and the focus of considerable MS research at present. There is no significant detail given to the natural history of MS, which is information necessary and required for the analysis of clinical trial data. There are some misleading statements regarding disease course modifying therapy in MS, most particularly the effect of interferon beta 1A (Avonex) on secondary progressive MS. Certainly, in relation to the discussion of clinical trials, it would have been very useful to reference this material directly rather than to provide a reading list. The Handbook of Multiple Sclerosis is written in extremely small print in a manner that is quite difficult to read. It would have been better formatted in larger type and in normal textbook size.