disease and neurological disorders. This further expands the coverage of this book. A complete list of references is also included.

Overall, this is a very well written book that provides a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the neurological problems of coeliac disease. It is recommended for both gastroenterologists and neurologists.

Betty Koo
Detroit, Michigan

PATHOLOGY AND GENETICS TUMOURS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 1997. Edited by Paul Kleihues, Webster K. Cavenee. Published by Oxford University Press Canada. 255 pages. C$137.95.

At long last, there is an outstanding text book complete with beautiful illustrations and photomicrographs, which unites the pathology and the genetics of tumours of the nervous system. Paul Kleihues and Webster K. Cavenee have assembled an impressive array of neuroscientists, neuropathologists, and molecular biologists who have all written well and succinctly on their assigned topics. In many ways, this book takes after the well known and established Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) fascicle on tumours of the nervous system. However, there is one major difference between the present text book, and the previously published AFIP volume. That being the extraordinary presentation here of the latest in the molecular genetics, molecular biology, and molecular neuropathology of the various tumours that affect the brain and spinal cord.

Each of the chapters begins with a summary which is placed quite attractively on a colour image background of the tumour type described. This is most effective. Perhaps the best of these title pages, and they are all good, is the one that deals with the familial tumour syndromes involving the nervous system. On this particular title page, all the distinct neurogenetic syndromes are delineated along with their chromosomal localization, their nervous system involvement, other cutaneous manifestations, and distinct features. Within each chapter is a well thought out subdivision into component parts which reappears throughout the text book for the different tumours. As such, one can readily find the most important aspects of the tumour type described such as grading system, incidence, localization, clinical features, histopathology, neuroimaging, and, most interestingly, the latest findings in the molecular biology and molecular genetics of each of these tumour types.

For a soft covered text, the photomicrographs and photos in colour are outstanding. I draw attention to the representation of glioblastoma in the first chapter in which nine gross autopsy specimens are shown in juxtaposition to illustrate the macroscopic features of glioblastoma multiforme. When it comes to metastatic tumours, chapter 16, there is an outstanding collage of nineteen different coloured prints of metastatic tumours as they affect the brain and spinal cord. For the most part, these photographic representations are very clear, and capture the salient pathology. Occasionally, and this is rare, the figures are too small to actually make out the distinctive features.

Perhaps more so than any other organ in the body, the numbers of tumours that can affect the brain are truly legion. As such, there are rare but well described tumour subtypes about which not much concerning the genetics is known. For example, the rare variant of medulloblastoma known as the medullomyoblastoma, the melanotic medulloblastoma or the lipomatous medulloblastoma are presented, but details surrounding their origins and genetics are, of course, lacking. It is truly notable, however, that many of the tumour types described have had the greater part of the molecular genetics worked out by the authors of each of the individual chapters.

A very valuable resource in the final pages of the book is a list of the contributors complete with their telephone numbers, fax and e-mail addresses. Even more valuable is the list of references. Almost 1800 current references are provided in the back of the text book which provide a comprehensive update on each of the tumour types to 1997.

As the true distinction between pathology and molecular genetics become blurred with the advent of molecular biology and the discoveries made in the past several years, a textbook such as this is essential for scientists, practicing neurologists and neurosurgeons, and students in the field. The clarity of the division of tumours into their subtypes, the beautiful illustrations including sufficient details on clinical presentation along with radiographs, and the very well represented gross and microscopic pathology plates will make this a treasured item in university, hospital, and personal libraries. It is anticipated that this book will be readily updated in subsequent editions to allow for the latest changes in the genetics of human brain tumours.

I view this book as the most valuable and comprehensive text on the neuropathology of brain tumours that I have ever had the pleasure of reviewing. It is highly recommended to the readership of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences.

James T. Rutka
Toronto, Ontario

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IN CHILDHOOD. 1998. By Jean Aicardi. Edition 2nd. Published by Cambridge University Press. 897 pages. $C 351.00.

Undertaking a book review can be an onerous task, particularly if the reviewer attempts to read the book from cover to cover. Reviewing Jean Aicardi's "Diseases of the Nervous System in Childhood" was a distinct pleasure rather than a burden. In my opinion, Dr. Aicardi's work is the most outstanding textbook in the field of child neurology. It is written by an individual with a wealth of experience who has a knack of explaining complex problems in a concise and meaningful fashion.

The book assumes an identity of its own, almost as if Dr. Aicardi is present in person reviewing a case at the bedside or discussing a patient problem in the clinic. Questions that come to mind are answered in the following paragraph. The text is replete with tables outlining differential diagnoses or things to contemplate when confronted by a specific problem. There are appropriate flow diagrams which guide the reader in the decision making process and lots of personal vignettes and pieces of advice which add a special "flavor" to the textbook. An ample selection of figures and illustrations nicely complement the major points outlined in the text. Dr. Aicardi focuses on evidence-based medicine and the references are contemporary and carefully selected.

No aspect of the child's nervous system is omitted! There are 11 major sections [each with subdivisions] which include fetal

and neonatal neurology, central nervous system malformations and chromosomal abnormalities, hydrocephalus and cerebral palsy, metabolic and heredodegenerative disorders, infectious diseases and accidents affecting the developing brain, tumors and vascular disorders, epilepsy, visual and auditory abnormalities, neuromuscular conditions, systemic diseases and their relationship to neurological function and developmental and neuropsychiatric disorders of children.

Most of the textbook was written by Dr. Aicardi himself which explains the uniformity of style and presentation throughout the book. He provides up-to-date genetic information and lucidly explains the biological mechanisms of inherited metabolic and degenerative disorders. I found it difficult to uncover significant deficiencies in the text. However, for future editions it would be useful to more liberally utilize arrows to highlight a specific lesion or area of interest in a CT scan or MRI illustration as not all readers will be comfortable in identifying the abnormality without some assistance. Although controversial, Dr. Aicardi might have touched upon the newly described pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections [PANDAS] and discussed in greater detail the positive outcome in aggressive drug management of pediatric HIV disease.

Diseases of the Nervous System in Childhood is an authoritative and comprehensive textbook. It addresses the majority of child neurology problems encountered in practice and will assist in the identification and investigation of most management problems in the community or in the tertiary care setting. I recommend the textbook without reservation to all those committed to the child's nervous system including students, trainees and practitioners in the field.

Robert H. A. Haslam,
Toronto, Ontario

SPINAL CORD DISEASES. NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE AND THERAPY SERIES – VOLUME 47. 1998. Edited by Gordon L. Engler, Jonathan Cole, W. Louis Merton. Published by Marcel Dekker. 696 pages. $C263.25.

This is another midsized book on spinal cord diseases. It is aimed at both surgeons and physicians as well as medical graduates. It presents a broad overview of conditions affecting the spinal cord.

The book consists of 29 chapters, organized under seven major sections: I. Developmental/Genetic Disease; II. Injuries to the Spinal Cord and Column; III. Infections; IV. Tumors; V. Neurological and Systemic Disease; VI. Investigation of Spinal Cord Disease; and VII. Additional Problems.

In the section on developmental diseases, a very extensive chapter on myelo-dysplasia is complete with extensive references. The authors fail to discuss the adult variant of tethered cord syndrome, however. The chapter on Chiari malformations is very extensive and complete. There is a good description of all aspects of the condition, but the discussion perpetuates the confusion between Chiari Type 1 and 2 malformations.

The section on trauma, of necessity, is very brief. The overview of cervical spine injuries presents a good classification and summary. The chapter on thoraco-lumbar injuries is too brief to be useful. The section on birth injuries to the cord brings attention to this uncommon but important issue. The chapter on post-traumatic syringomyelia does not describe the current understanding of the pathogenesis well, and does not discuss the current treatments of choice clearly.

The section on spinal cord infections is well written and provides an excellent review of the viral infections of the spinal cord and a brief but pertinent review of HIV infections.

The section on spinal cord tumors presents a good overview of the various neoplastic conditions, and each chapter representing benign spinal tumors and intra-medullary tumors provides an excellent review with good references. The chapter on metastatic disease is a very good review of the biology of metastases and presents a good overview of the current principles of management and stabilization techniques. The references are extensive.

The large section on neurological and systemic conditions of the spinal cord provides an extensive and excellent review of ALS, cervical spondylotic myelopathy, OPLL. The chapter on rheumatological aspects presents a very poor discussion of rheumatoid arthritis, focusing instead on ankylosing spondylitis and other conditions. The section on vascular disease presents a poor discussion of the venous anatomy and the important condition of dural AV fistula, and neglects cavernous angiomas. There are few references. The chapter on decompression illness occupies too extensive a place in a textbook such as this for a rare and specialized condition. The chapter on cervical spondylotic myelopathy presents a good review of pathology and pathogenesis and natural history with comparison of treatments. It does not present a critical review of treatment results. The section on imaging is a good overview of current diagnostic imaging techniques. The miscellaneous section includes two superb chapters on the urology of spinal cord injury and palliative care. This presents a redefinition of palliative care for chronic illness as opposed to terminal care. It deals with the important issues of chronic medications and pain control, tying in the important issues of communication and family as a unit of care. The chapters on neurophysiology and pain of spinal cord disease provide brief overviews. The over-extensive chapter on omental transfer seems out of place in a book on practical issues of spinal cord disease.

As with many multi-authored books, there is great variation in the depth and quality of material presented. The strength of this book relates to the very complete and extensive chapters on myelodysplasia, Chiari malformation, metastatic disease, ALS, infections, urology and palliative care, providing almost reference-like discussions. Most of the other chapters provide modest but complete overviews whereas some chapters are of insufficient scope and detail to be of much use.

All in all this is a very valuable book for residents in training, and neurologists and neurosurgeons with an interest in spinal cord disease.

D.J. Fairholm,
Vancouver, British Columbia

MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR NEUROBIOLOGY: GLIAL CELL DEVELOPMENT BASIC PRINCIPLES AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE. 1996. Edited by K.R. Jessen and W.D. Richardson. Published by Oxford University Press, Canada. 255 pages C$108.00.

Although glial cells exceed neurons in number in the nervous