There are eleven chapters with the major emphasis on inflammatory, reactive, and neoplastic diseases. Chapter 1 presents general guidelines for cytology and stresses clinicopathological correlation. Chapter 2 is a brief review of CNS anatomy and physiology and the CSF circulation. Acute, subacute and chronic inflammation and equivocal or pseudoneoplastic reactions and granulomatous inflammations are covered in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 considers "reactive conditions" characterized by cells such as monocytes, atypical and malignant histiocytes, leptomeningeal cells, choroid plexus and ependymal cells. There are four chapters (5–8) on neoplastic conditions including primary and metastatic tumors, leukemias, lymphomas and other lymphoproliferative diseases. There is no mention of the usefulness of immunoperoxidase techniques for the diagnosis of glial tumors, pituitary adenomas, or in the differential diagnosis of lymphoproliferative diseases.

The majority of the illustrations have been taken at low magnification and are generally helpful. However, Figures 29, 30, 32, 101 and 104 are fuzzy and difficult to interpret.

There are two chapters on fine needle aspiration, description of the preparatory techniques for additional diagnostic tests and an appendix for the preparation and staining of slides including the very useful rapid hematoxylin-eosin stain for fine needle aspiration biopsies.

Pathologists and cytologists, neurosurgeons, neurologists, radiologists and oncologists who deal with central nervous system lesions may find the book of interest.

A. Julio Martinez, M.D.


This is a most welcome textbook on electrodiagnostic procedures in peripheral neuromuscular disorders. The contents are well-arranged and begin with three chapters on the basic anatomy and membrane physiology of nerve and muscle and a description of recording equipment. The following three parts are devoted to the pathophysiology of neuromuscular disorders, and the principles for current clinical electrodiagnostic methods. There are detailed descriptions of techniques, normal variation, and common sources of error. Four chapters describe nerve conduction studies, three chapters the assessment of neuromuscular transmission, and five chapters electromyography with a special chapter on single-fiber EMG. Throughout, the author clearly distinguishes between routine methods and techniques less commonly applied, and between nerves and muscles selected for standard examinations and those rarely used or less accessible. Then follows one part of four chapters on special techniques for the study of the blink reflex, F-wave and axon reflexes, H-reflex, and somatosensory evoked potentials. Compared with other books in the field, this part is unusually authoritative, detailed and reflects the author's long-time personal research interests. The book concludes with two parts, primarily clinically oriented and describes spinal cord and peripheral nerve disorders (four chapters) and neuromuscular transmission defects and muscle diseases (three chapters). These chapters put electrodiagnostic procedures in their proper context and emphasize their diagnostic value and limitations. There are three appendices on history, electronics, and terminology.

The outstanding achievement of this book is the fine balance between pathophysiology, laboratory techniques, and the clinical interpretation of data. The text
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is clearly written, well indexed, and the book contains what is probably the most comprehensive bibliography available. This monumental undertaking by a single author is a bibliophilic delight, lavishly supplemented with illustrative recordings, figures, and tables, of great practical value in the laboratory and for teaching purposes. The price is reasonable, probably calculated from an expectation of a large readership. The comprehensive clinical material addresses a wide readership outside neuromuscular laboratories. The book should be consulted frequently by clinicians, who see patients with neuromuscular diseases.

Neuromuscular electrodagnosis is a relatively young discipline with various schools favoring different approaches and techniques, some of them still experimental. A completely balanced presentation of other views can hardly be expected in a single-author textbook. The techniques for nerve conduction, advocated by Kimura, are based upon surface recordings of responses, and EMG's are mainly interpreted by the audio-visual impression from the loudspeaker and oscilloscope screen. Readers are urged to consult other textbooks for information on the techniques and advantages of near-nerve recordings and quantitated EMG analysis, necessities which may limit the longevity and international distribution of the book. However, it certainly is a milestone en route in a rapidly expanding field, and Kimura has set high standards for his successors.

Viggo Kamp Nielsen, M.D., Ph.D.