transfer, other non-viral vectors, and anti-sense RNA approaches to modulated gene expression. The middle sections of the book deal with methods developed for local delivery of genetic material into cardiovascular tissues, catheter based systems for blood vessel delivery, and approaches myocardial delivery, including cell mediated gene transfer. These chapters incorporate considerable data from the individual chapter authors' own investigations. The final sections describe approaches to systemic gene expression and a chapter by the editor considering some of the biophysical aspects of vector delivery.

This book manages to encompass a remarkable amount of information on what has already become, in just a decade, a diverse field. Perhaps one criticism is that too much is included, at a risk of overwhelming the reader who is new to the field. However, the chapters are well organised and focused and the references comprehensive, so the appropriate information can be easily found and followed up. Overall, the editor and authors have produced an excellent overview of the field which combines readability, in depth information, and comprehensive coverage. *Gene Transfer in the Cardiovascular System* will prove to be an excellent guide and resource for both new and established investigators.

KEITH M CHANNON

Neuromuscular Disorders: Clinical and Molecular Genetics. Editor A E H Emery. (£75.00.) UK: John Wiley. 1998. ISBN 0-471-97817-5.

Alan Emery's latest book draws together reviews of a broad selection of neuromuscular diseases from acknowledged experts in their fields. Chapters vary in their depth and length and there seems to be no clear brief to present recent advances in any particular context. Having said that, the standard of the information presented is good and each chapter provides a good stand alone review of the current status of the various conditions covered. It would be harder, though, to go in and look for a specific answer to a counselling question as the different chapters do not present information in a standardised manner.

While a lot of the conditions described are very well covered in other publications it is probably in the rarer disorders, such as oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy and the desminopathies, where the reviews presented are particularly clear and informative. Other chapters on rarer conditions make refreshing and challenging reading, for example, fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva, but post polio syndrome sits unhappily with these other exclusively genetic disorders. The mitochondrial chapter presents a clear review of this complex subject.

This volume is unlikely to provide the first port of call for the geneticist with no predominant interest in neuromuscular diseases when other sources of information, and in particular OMIM, are so comprehensive at providing a quick update. It does, however, provide a readable and accessible account for those who want to take their interest further.

KATHERINE BUSHBY

Emery's Elements of Medical Genetics. 10th edition. Editors Robert F Mueller, Ian D Young. (£19.50 pb.) UK: Harcourt Brace. 1998. ISBN 0-443-05902-0.

Reviewing this book filled me with nostalgia for student days. My introduction to medical genetics was based on the 6th edition, published in 1983, and comparing that with this latest edition gave me a sense of how much the world has changed, how many breathtaking advances have been made over the last 15 years. The new edition is divided into three sections, the first on basic principles of human genetics, the second on genetics as applied to medicine, and the final one focusing on the specialty of clinical genetics. It provides a broad overview of medical genetics as it stands today, and I could not think of an important area which has been omitted. It is also up to date with, for example, sections on genomic imprinting, spectral karyotyping, and the role of HOX and Hedgehog genes in limb development. I think that this book has something for most readers. I'm sure that medical students today will find it as good an introduction to medical genetics as I did in the 1980s, giving the basics in a readable and clearly presented way, but providing enough depth for those whose interest is provoked. However, this is not just a textbook which will interest undergraduates and I would also recommend it to any more experienced readers who would like to update themselves in this fast moving field.

EVAN REID