training it would not come top of the list and is somewhat outdated compared to the current monographs available. If it is to become a favourite in the bookshelves of libraries or cardiologists, I would feel it would have to go on to a hardback edition.

D.J.Coltart
47 Weymouth Street
London W1N 3LD.

The Paralysed Hand, edited by Douglas W. Lamb. **The Hand and Upper Limb. Vol. 2.** Pp. v+251, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £42.00.

The title of this beautifully produced volume suggests a much more limited subject matter than that which it contains and in this as in other respects it somewhat resembles *Rehabilitation of the Hand* by Wynn Parry although written from a more surgical viewpoint as is appropriate. The first section on aetiology and investigation includes a lucid account of the peripheral nerves of the upper limb, an excellent short account of clinical examination in which the author commends two-point discrimination with a bent paper-clip as being so very much better than leaving it out of the assessment and, to end the section, an account of the pathology and neurophysiological assessment of nerve compression which is an improvement on many longer accounts of electrodiagnosis in hand disorders. There is good coverage of the congenital anomalies of innervation and of the elucidation problems related to the level of compression of the nerve along its course in the arm. Some of the many predisposing medical conditions are listed.

The second section has a wide scope – dealing with peripheral nerve repair, function after replantation and toe transplantation, traumatic and obstetrical brachial plexus injury and for good measure the hand in leprosy, tetraplegia and cerebral palsy. The section on entrapment neuropathy whilst excellent would have been better placed with the section on electrodiagnosis.

The separate section devoted to biomechanics of tendon transfer is fascinating and shows what can be achieved with really well-thought-out line drawings which are numerous throughout the book but particularly good in this chapter.

The fourth section on management of pain spreads its net well beyond the book's title and some rheumatologists would take issue with the advice on the painful rheumatoid hand. In the treatment of reflex sympathetic dystrophy whilst many less commonly used therapies are described the early use of calcitonin is not considered, reflecting perhaps UK practice which contrasts with that in France where its use began. The final section on the role for the hand therapist provides a well balanced and critical account of physical therapy and splintage and reminds us of the value of patient and skilled rehabilitation.

This is a first-rate book which should be in easy reach of every orthopaedic and rheumatology library – and in

the personal possession of its wealthier staff. Those involved in teaching medical and physiotherapy students and those studying for postgraduate rehabilitation diplomas or degrees should read it right through.

A.G. White
Royal Free Hospital,
London NW3 2QG.

Pharmacology and Clinical Uses of Inhibitors of Hormone Secretion and Action, edited by B.J.A. Furr and A.E. Wakeling. Pp. viii+598, illustrated. Baillière Tindall, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, Mexico City, Sydney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, 1987. £39.50.

The development of novel pharmacological compounds based on a detailed knowledge of hormones, both steroid and peptide, and their receptors, has resulted in many advances in the treatment of both endocrine disorders and hormonally responsive non-endocrine disorders. This trend is likely to continue with the rapid advances being made in characterising the structure of receptors for many biologically active factors and this book provides a comprehensive review of current knowledge of antihormonal drugs and inhibitors of hormone secretion. The editors have managed to assemble a number of excellent chapters written by a group of authors of international repute. I particularly enjoyed the clear and comprehensive accounts of the antioestrogens. It is rather an unusual way of approaching hormonal therapy and on balance succeeds, but I suspect makes for a rather restricted readership. As the editors state in their preface they have tried to avoid compartmentalisation and thus the book becomes a valuable reference work for prospective research students and fellows. This makes referencing extremely important and this has been successfully achieved with many 1985 and some 1986 references in most chapters. Sections on the clinical application of the compounds of interest are less cohesive. This is probably unavoidable when one considers the wide potential applications of a compound like somatostatin, for example in acromegaly, diabetes, gastrointestinal tumours, or the proven applications for antiandrogen compounds such as alopecia, acne, hirsutism, precocious puberty and carcinoma of the prostate; these are likely to be used by a variety of clinicians including dermatologists, endocrinologists, paediatricians and urologists.

In summary a very well presented book written by experts but perhaps for use predominantly by experts.

Professor M.C. Sheppard
Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
Birmingham B15 2TH.