



FIGURE 36-13

Motor units producing a low force are recruited before motor units producing large force. Two single motor units were recorded from the first dorsal interosseous of a human subject through the same electrode, which produced a slowly rising force (A). Spike-triggered averaging (see Box 36-2) shows that the unit recruited first produces a lower twitch force and has a longer twitch contraction time (B) than does the second (C). (Adapted from Desmedt and Godaux, 1977.)

average tension time-locked to specific spike;
tension contributed by other spikes averages
out