seem somewhat superfluous in a volume of this calibre.

This book can be thoroughly recommended except for the fact that it is a staggering £66. The price will no doubt limit its sale, which is a shame as there is much in it for any one interested in the surgery of the foregut.

JOHN DAWSON

Abdominal Operations (vols 1 and 2) By Rodney Maingot. (Pp 2577. Illustrated. £90.05.) Appleton-Century-Crofts: New York. 1980.

Six years separate the last two editions of Maingot's *Abdominal Operations*. This two-volume set remains a classic reference work. It is beloved and appreciated by large numbers of surgeons throughout the world and I have no doubt that it will remain so despite the cost of £90.05. The work remains a good buy and must still be recommended, although, on reading both this edition and its predecessor, I am increasingly of the opinion that a firmer editorial hand is now needed to weld the contributions of the 133 eminent authors into a less unwieldy, less repetitive, and less patchy work. I suspect that most surgeons, whether in training or in established practice, find that the strength of the book has lain, and continues to lie, in its description of the technique of operative surgery. The editor states in his Preface that fully 80% of the text and illustrations are devoted to the minutiae of present-day techniques. I would like to see this figure pushed closer to 100% in the next editions (and I am sure that there should be further editions), and would appreciate a reduction in the sometimes discursive accounts of modern diagnostic procedures and the clinical and pathological aspects of many lesions of the abdominal viscera. These aspects of surgical practice are better dealt with elsewhere and in my view detract from the real purpose of *Abdominal Operations*. Although many good new illustrations have been added, many of the older line-drawings, endoscopy plates, and photographs of operative specimens need to be replaced or dropped.

I have no doubt that many devotees of *Abdominal Operations* will disagree violently with any suggestion that the book be modified. I still feel that it represents the best buy of its kind on the market, but the time for more stringent editing has arrived.

D C CARTER

Books received

Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology vol. 15, suppl. 65. XI International Congress of Gastroenterology, *Carbenoxolone Symposium* Edited by Sir Francis Avery Jones, T C Hunt, and P I Reed. (Pp 120; illustrated) Oslo, Universitets forlaget: 1980.

Gaceta Medica de Mexico Vol. 116. **Symposium on Alcoholism** (Pp. 61; price not stated). Mexico: Academia Nacional de Medicina, 1980.

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Familial Hyperbilirubinemia Edited by L Okolicsany (Pp 263; illustrated; £15.50). Wiley: Bognor Regis. 1980.

Prostaglandins and Related Lipids Volume 1 Prostaglandin Synthetase Inhibitors: New Clinical Applications. Edited by Peter Ramwell (Pp 410; illustrated; \$34). Alan Liss: New York, 1980.

The Genetics and Heterogeneity of Common Gastrointestinal Disorders Edited by Jerome I Rotter, I Michael Samloff, and David L Rimoin. (Pp 582; illustrated; price not stated). Academic Press: New York. 1980.

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Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract Standardisation of Nomenclature, Diagnostic Criteria and Diagnostic Methodology. By Carroll M Leevy, Hans Popper, and Sheila Sherlock. (Pp 212; £12). Castle House Publications: Tunbridge Wells. 1979.

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Drug Absorption Edited by L F Prescott and W S Nimmo (Pp 353; illustrated; £24.95) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1979.

Current Concepts of Digestion and Absorption in Pigs Edited by A G Low and I G Partridge. (Pp 222; illustrated; £6). National Institute for Research in Dairying: Shinfield, Reading. 1980.