Books

Gastroenterology 3rd edn. By I A D Bouchier. (Pp. 389; illustrated; £8.00.) London: Baillière Tindall, 1982.

The great strength of this book is that it comes from a single author. Because of this it can give clear advice and can be frank about gaps in our knowledge – for example, ‘The treatment of Crohn’s disease has yet to be established’.

There is wide coverage including a few well chosen words about even small print subjects. Line drawings are used instead of radiographic plates which proves successful and is preferable to written descriptions of radiographic findings. There is very brief description of surgical topics such as appendicitis, hernia, and intestinal obstruction. I wonder if this is necessary: although physicians need to know this much about surgical conditions it can be assumed that the basics must have been acquired from experience along the way.

Extensive use is made of tables, which is a considerable strength of the book. In places, however, the text supporting a table is remote from it and insufficient to allow reasonable understanding (the Tables on p. 224).

On the back cover we are told that this text has proved of value to senior clinical undergraduates and to postgraduates working for higher degrees. I think it is more than adequate for the former and certainly a good basis, but not adequate in itself, for the latter.

All in all this is clear, sensible, and adequate as a brief description of gastroenterology and makes a worthy addition to this series of concise medical textbooks.

M S LOSOWSKY

Gastrointestinal cancer I (Volume 3 of the series Cancer Treatment and Research) Edited by J J De Cosse and P Sherlock. (Pp. 452; illustrated; \$75. Dfl.170.00.) The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1981.

This anthology of 15 monographs covering selected aspects of gastrointestinal cancer is provided by a distinguished international panel of authors. There are a limited number of illustrations but this is well compensated by the attractive presentation and the clarity of the text. Another strong feature is the extensive bibliography (about 1600 references).

The editors have chosen to be topical rather than

comprehensive. The first three chapters deal with subjects common to several gut malignancies: abnormal epithelial cytokinetics, genetic susceptibility, and the systemic manifestations of disease. Thereafter the main emphasis lies in the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and early detection of cancers arising within the alimentary canal. A few examples may demonstrate the range of subjects covered.

The problem of stump cancer after partial gastrectomy (but not vagotomy) is reviewed by Klaus Dahm of Hamburg. Logically, resection of the antrum, as practised for peptic ulcer disease, might be expected to protect against gastric carcinoma by removing a common site of origin for such tumours. To the contrary, the incidence of cancer may reach 20% at 20 years, especially after Polya (Billroth II) gastrectomy.

Seibi Kobayashi reviews the Japanese experience of early gastric cancer – that is, lesions confined to the mucosa or submucosa irrespective of nodal involvement. Even ‘microcarcinoma’ (<1 cm) can metastasise. In 1975 alone three million Japanese underwent mass screening with double-contrast radiography. For the 3000 ‘positive’ cases (0.1%), a five-year survival rate of double the normal (27%) can be anticipated.

In another entertaining if mildly provocative chapter C B Williams (London) defines the diagnostic and therapeutic roles of colonoscopy. There are essays on some of the less frequent malignancies – colitis carcinoma, lymphoma, hepatoma, and the apudomas – and the book concludes with an evaluation of chemotherapy in gastric, pancreatic, and colorectal cancer. Altogether there is much to instruct those with an interest in this lethal clutch of diseases. I await with pleasure the promised sequel (*Gastrointestinal cancer II*).

R C N WILLIAMSON

Endoscopy and biopsy of esophagus, stomach and duodenum. A color atlas By L Demling, K Elster, H Koch, and W Rosch. (Pp. 226; illustrated; £50.75.) Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1982.

This is a small book; 225 pages 25 cm × 17 cm, but it contains over 400 colour illustrations and is well produced on high quality paper. It is thus very expensive.

The main body of the book is divided into three sections, covering the oesophagus, stomach, and duodenum. Each section starts with an account of the normal and abnormal histopathology of the