decades. A subject which was a quiet backwater has appropriately moved to the centre of good patient care and become a focus for intense research activity. Nutritional support is an adjunct to, and not a substitute for, the appropriate clinical management of underlying disease; but within this context, enteral and parenteral nutrition may be of the greatest benefit to the patient when appropriately indicated.

This is the second edition of a book which was first published in 1980. It has a strong American flavour with 61 of the 65 authors coming from North American hospitals. There are two sections, the first dealing with basic principles and techniques and the second, special problems in surgical nutrition. The topics considered in the first section range from the history of nutrition in surgery, to substrate, vitamin, electrolyte and trace element requirements. The second part deals with the management of specific problems such as gastrointestinal fistulae, nutritional support in the cancer patient, management of the short bowel syndrome and the role of nutrition in organ failure. There have been significant changes since the first edition of the book. An expansion of the section devoted to the basic principles of surgical nutrition and new chapters dealing with the role of the computer in nutritional support, a deeper consideration of the problems of vascular access for total parenteral nutrition, a consideration of the pharmacist's role and the multidisciplinary team approach to parenteral nutrition. In the second section there is an interesting chapter on respiratory failure and the ventilator dependent patient in relation to nutritional support, and the last chapter appropriately looks to new horizons in intravenous feeding.

The text is clear and stimulating with good quality illustrations. It certainly is a book to turn to when seeking advice for nutritional support of the individual patient. Each chapter is well referenced but a disappointment is that there is, perhaps inevitably, a predominance of North American references and this leaves an unfortunate impression of a parochial outlook. This is, however, a minor observation as I am sure this edition will, like its predecessor, be a popular and useful. Unfortunately the price probably will restrict it to the hospital library shelf.

A W GOODE

A colour atlas of colorectal surgery Edited by P F Jones and R J P Siwek. (Pp. 200; illustrated; £75.00.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, 1986.

It has always been difficult to decide how to train a surgeon in operative technique. In the English system, we rely greatly on a long 'apprentice style'

training period, in which it is hoped that the surgeon-trainee will be assisted by his 'chief' until he is familiar with the necessary details of technique. In other systems, notably the American, there is a more concentrated programme, with a rigid practical protocol that must be fulfilled. In all systems, there remains the problem – how does the 'chief' advance his own range as new operations are devised? Surgical textbooks of operative technique fill-in the gaps that are present even in the best organised training programmes – and in a few cases are directed at the consultant end of the market. This book seems to have both ends in view; almost all the common procedures are lavishly illustrated, with a good supporting text of explanation of how they may be used to the best advantage; but there are also operations included that must still be regarded as unusual outside large specialist colorectal units. For example, postanal repair (for prolapse) and colo-anal anastomosis (for cancer) are not yet part of most district hospital operating lists carried out by general surgeons, although they may become so in the future. Therefore, some of these descriptions are really more for the established surgeon seeking to extend his repertoire. There are some surprising omissions: the Thiersch operation, the Ripstein procedure, caecorectal anastomosis, anorectal mucosal excision (for prolapse) and sphincter repair do not appear – and perhaps most surprisingly of all, stapling techniques are only described for reversing a previous Hartmann procedure.

Previously, I have had some reservations about photography as a method for illustrating surgical operations. I still retain some doubts, but in many cases the beautiful quality of these colour prints has convinced me that there is a definite place for them. Probably, line drawings and photographs should complement each other for the best results, rather than books relying exclusively on one or the other method.

The book is not cheap (£75.00) but most surgeons with a colorectal interest will want to have this book to enhance the teaching of their surgical trainees.

C V MANN

Surgical gastroenterology. By T V Taylor. (Pp. 574; illustrated; £39.50.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1986.

A monograph intended to be factual, concise and up to date aimed primarily at the final year medical student and postgraduates preparing for the FRCS. It is intended as a revision text book giving an over view and also as a source of reference. It may well achieve these objectives but not for the reviewer

who found it excellent for students in some areas such as the formation of gall stones and conditions which affect the biliary system but far too brief to act as a reference book with such comments on chemotherapy for the Zollinger Ellison syndrome limited to a single sentence. There are a large number of radiographs and some CT scans, many of which are either of poor quality or inadequately reproduced. Though the preface states that detailed description of operative technique has not been included, there are diagrams of two types of inguinal hernia repair with which students are usually overindocrinated, whereas the section on inflammatory diseases of the colon where students sometimes have problems, the only diagram refers to mucosal proctectomy with the ileal reservoir. It is difficult to see why some of the illustrations have been selected for inclusion such as a diagram of the six variations of appendicular position. Although this book is quite easy to read, it has some odd inclusions and mysterious exclusions. Why, for example, mention Montezuma's revenge without reference to gippy tummy or Delhi belly?

Though by no means a small book and containing some reference to the majority of topics that surgical trainees might wish to refer to, its main defect may well be brevity in areas considered important for examinations. For example, the metabolic effects of trauma are dealt with in a paragraph of 10 lines.

This book is difficult to review, for the author, in trying to give an overview of the subject may well be over shooting. The test will lie in whether final year medical students or those preparing for the FRCS will find it suitable for their purpose.

C G CLARK

Diarrhoeal disease and malnutrition. Edited by M. Gracey. (Pp. 230; illustrated; £30.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

Although this book is mainly about diarrhoeal disease among children in areas where malnutrition is widespread, it contains much of interest to the gastroenterologist in more developed countries. There are sections on gastrointestinal immunity, parasites, weaning patterns, microbial contamination of food and water, lactose intolerance and the physiological basis of oral rehydration solution – not much that is new but clearly written. Among the more recently described pathogens there are comprehensive accounts of the pathogenesis of enteropathogenic *E coli* together with accounts of the astroviruses and coronaviruses. There is a particularly interesting section on prospects for anti-diarrhoeal therapy in acute diarrhoeas in which the physiological and pharmacological basis for the development of novel therapies is described. The

account of the role of improved water supplies and sanitation in prevention of diarrhoeal disease dispels any naive assumption that diarrhoea is easily prevented and it seems relevant to include a section on vaccines against enteric infections. The present and future possibilities for the development of vaccines against cholera, enterotoxigenic *E coli*, shigella, campylobacter, and rotavirus are described and the biological reasons for many of the vaccine failures in the past are rather instructive. There is a delightfully clear section on types of effective oral rehydration therapy using materials available in the home. Finally there is a review of 23 studies on changing patterns in childhood mortality from diarrhoeal disease in developing countries in recent years – 19 of them showed a significant decrease. While there is no room for complacency there is room for encouragement in using some of the strategies outlined in this challenging book.

ANDREW TOMKINS

Inflammatory bowel disease: experience and controversy By B I Korelitz and N Sohn. (Pp 297; illustrated; \$32.) Orlando, Florida: Grune & Stratton, 1985.

This book is based on a postgraduate course held at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York. The contributors are drawn from North America (predominantly New York City). It comprises 36 chapters divided into seven sections. There are some 270 pages of text and nearly two-thirds of the chapters are less than six pages in length. Despite the title and unusual sequence of topics, the book is really a concise textbook of inflammatory bowel disease, perhaps most appropriate for physicians and surgeons in the early postgraduate years.

Section 1 includes reviews of IBD in children, the elderly, and male homosexuals. The review of the disease in childhood is probably the best available summary. The second section summarises pathogenesis including a concise, clear summary of the immunological changes by David Sachar and a scholarly review of epidemiology by Albert Mendeloff. The third consists of gynaecological aspects, pregnancy, and carcinoma. The histopathological changes of dysplasia are clearly described and illustrated by Sheldon Sommers.

Section 4 is a brief review of standard medical treatment but does include a good account of the role of metronidazole. The highlight of the fifth section concerned with diagnosis is a review of flexible endoscopy by Jerome Waye. The sixth section is a pot pourri of special problems and the book closes with a short review of surgical treatment including the evaluation of the quality of life after surgical treatment and a summary of the place of