transplantation seen through the enormous experience of the Pittsburgh group. It is refreshing to read a text by two authors, rather than the more common multiple authorship usually found with clinical volumes.

Dr Starzl has always written clearly and well with forthright views. The surgical procedure and pathological findings are the main concern of this book, although there is a chapter on the more hepatological aspects and selection of patients.

Dr Starzl together with Dr Moore, independently, worked out methods of experimental liver transplantation in animals and this led directly to the clinical application of liver transplantation by Dr Starzl when he was in Denver in 1963. After his move to Pittsburgh the pace of work on liver transplantation increased and the introduction of cyclosporin permitted better results, fewer steroids, and a surge of interest throughout the world. Many surgeons are now interested in this field and this book will be a useful start for them. There are nearly 700 references listed. Although the contributions in liver transplantation from Dr Starzl's group have been exceedingly important, transplantation has developed in other centres and other countries, and in Europe there have been many developments. These do not figure prominently in this monograph which is well produced and easy to read.

R Y CALNE

Viral diarrheas of man and animals. Edited by L J Saif and K W Theil. (Pp 343; illustrated; \$149.95.) Boca Raton, Florida: CRC Press, 1989.

Diarrhoeal diseases are a major problem in all countries. An estimated 5 to 10 million diarrhoeal-associated deaths occur annually in humans in Asia, Africa, and Latin America with the highest mortality in children. Up to 18% of newborn pigs and calves succumb to acute diarrhoea. Increasing use of day care centres and intensive farm management practices has increased the risk of infantile gastroenteritis in humans and animals in developed countries. The majority of cases of infectious diarrhoea are due to viruses, but knowledge has been hampered by the lack of suitable cell culture systems or other diagnostic tests.

This is an excellent book. Each chapter is carefully prepared and presents a comprehensive review (up to 1988) of all aspects of the virology, pathogenesis, and immunology of the known diarrhoeal viruses of man and animals. So much can be learnt about the human diseases by study of the animal pathogens and vice versa that it is essential to cover all aspects, as in this volume. There are, in addition, two useful chapters on intestinal immunity and enteric virus vaccines.

The book is well presented with clear and useful illustrations and a good index. The comprehensive nature of the chapters is illustrated by the section on group A rotaviruses, of which the human representative was first discovered in 1973; a total of 446 references are listed on this topic.

Saif and Theil's book should provide a standard reference work for gastroenterologists, virologists, immunologists, and veterinarians.

D J JEFFRIES

***Helicobacter pylori*, gastritis and peptic ulcer.** Edited by P Malfertheiner and H Ditschuneit. (Pp 478; 141 figures; 94 tables; DM 168.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1990.

An interesting and useful book, which represents the (partial) proceedings of a conference (abstracts in *Klin Wschr* 1989; 67, suppl 18). The full articles do provide some technical details and references to techniques not available in the abstracts.

The book is divided into sections on the taxonomy and biology of *Helicobacter pylori*; pathogenic mechanisms; immune reactions to *H pylori*; gastritis; the involvement of *H pylori* in duodenal ulcer and non-ulcer dyspepsia; and the treatment of infection with *H pylori*. Most of the sections end with commentaries, which vary in both quality and objectives, since some review the preceding papers, some the whole topic, and some are genuinely critical and provide pointers to the future.

Some of the papers make more impact than others. For example, a good systematic analysis of the microbiological aspects of *H pylori* infection is spoiled by discussion of how it manages to switch off parietal cells – a finding not compatible with its supposed involvement in the pathogenesis of duodenal ulcers. An interesting article by Labigne and colleagues discusses the relation of the urease of *H pylori* and plants. Similarly, an analysis of the possible clinical uses of its serology in reducing the need for endoscopy is worth mention. The section on gastritis reinforces the view that the topic requires study and analysis without preconceived ideas. The decision of the German Society of Pathology to abandon mention of mucosal atrophy when considering 'gastritis' is surely correct. It is also refreshing to read, in the sensible review of Price and Stolte, that 'histopathologists are not swept along and diagnose HP-associated gastritis at the merest sight of the organism.' They also point out that other bacteria can be found on the gastric surface – the relevance of which to gastric mucosal disease is often ignored.

The section on the connection between *H pylori* and duodenal ulceration is comprehensive and shows how *H pylori* is thought to produce gastric hypersecretion, metaplasia of the duodenal mucosa, and abnormalities of upper alimentary motility. Although there are several interesting hypotheses, most are biologically not coherent. For example, *H pylori* neutralises antral gastric juice so as to promote hypergastrinaemia, which in turn results in gastric hypersecretion, resulting in gastric metaplasia of the duodenal mucosa. Odd, how the gastric juice passes through the antrum in sufficient amounts to produce duodenal metaplasia but not in amounts sufficient to acidify the antral mucosa. And so on. Unfortunately, there is not much critical examination of the many hypothetical factors and conditions men-

tioned in the hypotheses; nor even of the facts, since infection with *H pylori* is considered to produce (epidemic) hypochlorhydria in normal individuals, increased peak acid output in patients with duodenal ulcer, and decreased peak acid output in patients with the Zollinger-Ellison syndrome.

Under the circumstances, it is perhaps a little hard on agnostics to be told that failure to appreciate the significance of *H pylori* infection is similar to the rejection of Semmelweis and Lister in the last century.

K G WORMSLEY

NOTES

Leeds Course in Clinical Nutrition

The Leeds Course in Clinical Nutrition will be held on 10–13 September 1991. Further details are available from Mrs Hilary L Helme, Department of Continuing Professional Education, Continuing Education Building, Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG. Tel: (0532) 333233.

5th International Symposium on Colorectal Cancer

The 5th International Symposium on Colorectal Cancer will be held on 24–26 September 1991 at Torino, Italy. Further information is available from the Organising Secretariat, Francorosso Health Congress, c/o Jet Viaggi, Corso Matteotti 1, 10121 Torino, Italy. Tel: 039 11599529; fax: 039 11548222.

International Conference of Gastroenterology

An International Conference of Gastroenterology will take place on 31 October–3 November 1991 (Hong Kong), 3 November–6 November 1991 (Beijing). Information and application forms are available from the Conference Secretariat, 12/F Kaiseng Commercial Centre, 4–6 Hankow Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Tel: (852) 3679372; fax: (852) 7218823.

Live endoscopy demonstration in Hong Kong

The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Society of Digestive Endoscopy will hold the Sixth International Workshop on Therapeutic Endoscopy, 3–5 December 1991. Further details can be obtained from Dr Joseph Leung, Department of Medicine, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong. Tel: (852) 6363128/5; fax: (852) 6350075.