Any criticism is minor and is aimed at the style of English—for example, 'small magnification of a liver', spelling—'primary biliary cirrhosis', or at the absence of bold type in the index to indicate the major text reference. Perhaps the authors are carried away by their approach and indulge in sign-splitting. Thus eight patterns of fibrosis and 11 types of liver cell necrosis are described. However, all pretenders to the kingdom of hepatopathology should be aware of this book which is a welcome breath of fresh air among the current fug of atlases.

ASHLEY B PRICE

Clinics in gastroenterology: Postsurgical syndromes Edited by A. L. Bloom and J. R. Siewert. (Pp. 547. Illustrated. £8.25.) W. B. Saunders: London, 1979.

This is a practical and imaginative edition of *Clinics in gastroenterology* that bears a strong editorial stamp of authority. The guest editors have managed to persuade a number of eminent contributors to tackle the heterogeneous subject of post-surgical syndromes in a logical and orderly way. The resulting edition is scholarly and each chapter will be used, deservedly, as a standard work of reference.

The very scholarly nature of the contributions is sometimes a weakness when one tries to use the book as a guide to the assessment and management of a specific post-surgical problem. The emphasis of the book is so much on analyses and classification that often there does not seem to be enough room for advice on management. The editors set the pattern in their chapter on the oesophagus. They produce a brilliant and logical classification of the post-surgical disorders with five ingenious flow charts. It is, however, rather difficult to extract from the chapter practical advice about management.

At first sight, it might seem that there might be tedious repetition when three authors in successive chapters consider malnutrition, dumping, and anaemia after operations on the stomach. However, all the accounts bear reading and are complementary.

An authoritative chapter written from Hamburg on papillotomy and bilio-cigestive anastomosis is both logically precise and of great value. It is worth buying the book for this chapter alone. In another excellent chapter on post-cholecystectomy problems written from Basel with great authority, the authors conclude with very strong advice to all aspiring cholecystectomists: during the

operation all surgeons should perform pressure controlled cholangiography, pressure and flow measurements and the CCK test. This advice is clearly impractical for most surgeons throughout the world because of lack of facilities: furthermore, neither the authors nor anyone else has shown conclusively that, after such an elaborate regime, the incidence of post-cholecystectomy syndromes is significantly less than if none of these procedures was used.

A ALEXANDER-WILLIAMS

Ulcus-therapie Edited by A. L. Blum and J. R. Siewert. (Pp. 409. Illustrated. \$19.-80.) Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1978.

This is the first book, published in German, in a series entitled *Interdisciplinary gastroenterology*. Its origins, according to a note on the flyleaf, lie in a sponsored workshop. The book is edited jointly by a physician and a surgeon, and there are 32 contributors, mainly drawn from Austria, West Germany, and Switzerland. The editors believe that peptic ulceration is an ideal subject for an interdisciplinary approach, more particularly as there are relatively few clear-cut indications for either medical or surgical treatment. The book is divided into three parts. The first concentrates on definitions, epidemiological observations, and pathological considerations, while the second part concerns itself with therapeutic principles. In the third major section the clinical application of these principles—that is, therapeutic indications—are discussed.

The concepts on which the book is based are unassailable, and the contributors have been successful in achieving the aims set by the editors. Every contribution fits well into the pattern. The emphasis is on facts throughout, and there are comprehensive lists of references. Particular stress is laid on controlled trials. The conclusions are well balanced and carefully argued. The volume comes in the form of a small book with soft covers. The layout is pleasing to the eye, with clear print and good diagrams. There is an enormous amount of information in these 400 small pages.

Every section is itself excellent value, but the book is not easy to read as a whole as the style is strikingly different from what one normally expects to find in an English or American book on a medical subject. This matters little. Despite the publisher's blurb, it is not a book that

can be recommended as offering valuable help in general practice. It is, however, a mine of well-ordered information for physicians and surgeons with a major interest in peptic ulcer disease, and contains in addition much useful practical advice. An English-language version would be welcome.

K SCHILLER

Scientific basis of gastroenterology Edited by H L Duthie and K G Wormsley. (Pp. 498. Illustrated. £17.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh.

The past few decades have seen tremendous activity in the application of scientific methods to the study of the alimentary tract and the liver. These researches have often been guided as much by advances in technology as by the need to solve urgent clinical problems. Consequently there is often a certain dislocation between the 'scientific basis' and clinical gastroenterology. This is perhaps particularly exemplified by the isolation of new gastrointestinal hormones 'searching' for a role in health and disease, and, on the other hand, by our lack of understanding of the aetiology of any of the major gastrointestinal diseases in the face of rapid developments in alimentary physiology.

Professor Duthie and Dr Wormsley have assembled experts from Australia, Belgium, Poland, and the USA as well as Britain to write a series of 19 impressive essays. Gastrointestinal and vascular physiologists, biochemists, endocrinologists, an immunologist, a cytologist, physicians, and surgeons have written chapters varying from discussions of basic functions in which research methodology has been critically reviewed to the use of physiological tests for clinical assessment. The book is well illustrated and indexed, and the editors have kept overlap of subject matter to a minimum. Some of the chapters, such as the first on cell population kinetics, are masterly reviews of methodology which will help the reader to understand the literature and evaluate it critically. With one or two chapters, one inevitably has the feeling of seeing an attempted still-shot of a rapidly moving subject.

After an initial section entitled 'Basic principles' there follows one on 'Secretion', which does not cover the small intestine. This is dealt with under 'Absorption' where the simultaneous processes of secretion, digestion, and absorption are covered together. The book ends with

chapters on motility. Diet, and psychological aspects, are not considered, and the liver is allotted little more than two chapters.

The book has to compete with review articles which appear regularly in the journals. The editors have sought to provide a balance of topics within gastroenterology, and, as a balanced and thoughtful text, it is the best available. It is a book that will be read with interest by gastroenterologists, either established or in training, and by those engaged in research and wishing to broaden their perspective.

T S LOW-BEER

Ultrastructural aspects of the liver and its disorders By K Tanikawa. (Pp. 357. Illustrated. \$41.50.) Igaku-Shoin: Tokyo, New York. 1979.

The second edition of this profusely illustrated guide to hepatic ultrastructure appears 11 years after the first. It remains one of the few reference books on the subject, and its expansion from 239 to 357 pages and from 165 to 242 plates is welcomed. The price is reasonable. The figures are well-printed and derived from electron micrographs of good quality; their content reflects the author's extensive personal experience in the field. The English is clear.

The first section of the book describes the normal human and rodent liver. Scanning electron micrographs are used appropriately to facilitate understanding of structure. Some physiological mechanisms are next discussed, and illustrated with experimental data. A section on fine structural pathology includes a comprehensive index of the individual organelle changes and the diseases in which they are found, with comment on their causes and effects. The biggest part of the book is devoted to individual conditions. Here the reader may be surprised to find that illustrations of human diseases are interspersed with experimental animal material. In places the selection of illustrations seems odd—for instance, carotenemia is shown but there are no pictures of glycogen storage disease, Gaucher's disease, or Niemann-Pick disease, although these are all briefly discussed in the text. This slight lack of balance may well represent the common difficulty in collecting satisfactory material for electron microscopy. Finally there is a thoughtful essay on the application of electron microscopy in diagnosis.

The book is recommended to depart-

ments of gastroenterology and hepatology, to morphologists interested in ultrastructure, and to research workers in the field of liver disease.

P J SCHEUER

Diseases of the small intestine in childhood By John Walker-Smith. (Pp. 412. Illustrated. 178 Dutch Guilders.) Igaku-Shoin: Tokyo.

A second edition of this book reflects the success of the first, as well as the rapid growth of paediatric gastroenterology as an important specialty. In the present edition several chapters have been modified in the light of new knowledge, and each chapter has an up-to-date bibliography. The text is written in a simple and clear style and an understanding of the disease processes discussed is increased by an outline of the relevant physiological processes. The quality of some of the illustrations could have been improved, but this does not seriously detract from the value of the book as a whole. Certain sections such as rotavirus gastroenteritis, cow's milk protein intolerance, and Crohn's disease have been extended, and this is appropriate in the light of developments in these areas since the publication of the first edition in 1975.

The second edition deserves the success of the first and will be an asset to all concerned with the diseases of the small intestine in childhood, whether they are practising clinicians, pathologists, research workers, or undergraduates.

J. T. HARRIES

Clinics in gastroenterology: Infections of the GI tract. Guest Editor H P Lambert. (Pp. 838. Illustrated. £8.25.) W B Saunders: London. 1979.

This is a timely volume which brings together reviews in the physiology of the gastrointestinal tract to match recent advances in microbiology and virology, with special reference to infection and diarrhoea. The book comprises 12 chapters, with Professor H P Lambert as guest editor.

In general, the standard is extremely high in all the chapters and some are quite outstanding. The pathophysiology of diarrhoea by L A Turnberg is a beautiful summary of the mechanisms involved in the production of diarrhoea, including a full description of the role of adenylyclase and 'gut hormones'. The role of viruses, particularly rotavirus, is discussed by Professor Banatvala. It was an inspiration to get Butzler and Skirrow as

joint authors on the chapter dealing with campylobacter enteritis. This must surely be as definitive a statement on the subject as is possible at the moment. The book is worth having for this chapter alone.

Antibiotic-associated colitis is described in detail by John Bartlett keeping a firm 'mid-atlantic' position in his discussion of the history of pseudomembranous colitis. The whole *C. difficile* story is given in detail and the chapter ends with a useful section on management.

Anyone wishing to be brought up to date on *Esch. coli* diarrhoea, shigella infections, typhoid and other salmonella infections, as well as the mechanisms of antibiotic resistances, will find plenty to please in these chapters. They are all supported by references which are given in full.

Two minor surprises for me were the claims that shigella infection may be associated with a 'typhoidal Rose spot eruption' and also that 'a fleeting rash' has been reported in campylobacter enteritis. Both have, so far, apparently been too fleeting for this reviewer.

The volume ends with a nice summary by Professor Lambert on the place of antimicrobial agents in diarrhoea. He gives two good diagrams, one for children and one for adults, which sum up the position in this controversial subject.

HILLAS SMITH

Books received

Topics in paediatric gastroenterology Edited by J A Dodge. (Pp. 226. Illustrated. £8.) Pitman Medical, Tunbridge Wells. 1976.

Dietary fibre in human nutrition: a bibliography By Hugh C Trowell (P. 56; £6.00). John Libbey: London. 1979.

Hepato-renal syndrome Edited by Ettore Bartoli and Livio Chianussi (Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Hepato-Renal Syndrome, Italy 1978). Pp. 506; price not stated). Piccin: Padova, Italy. 1979.

Progress in peptic ulcer Edited by Gy Mozsik and T Javor (Pp. 774; illustrated; price not stated) Akademiai Kiadó: Budapest. 1976.