the quality of some of the chapters is quite outstanding. The section on ultrasonic puncture techniques will prove particularly useful for those interested in this aspect of ultrasound. The author describes the various methods and applications of the technique in detailed manner that will prove a valuable practical guide for anyone wishing to acquire expertise in this rapidly developing branch of the subject.

Overall the book presents a good range of topics, some new, some already established but looked at in a refreshing new light. The book is a 'must' for anyone interested in ultrasound.

D J ALLISON

The radiological examination of the colon By R E Miller and J Skucas. (Pp. 360; illustrated; US \$128.00.) The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers BV. 1983.

The previous work from these two authors was on radiographic contrast agents. In this book their aim is to provide a comprehensive guide to the current state of the art in colonic radiology. The book contains 360 pages and 302 illustrations, all of high quality double contrast studies.

The text is divided into three parts. The first section is on technique, and as would be expected from the authors the chapter on the double contrast barium enema is superb, with a useful supporting discussion on its relationship to colonoscopy. In the second part there is a detailed account of the normal anatomy of the colon, with the third and largest section covering lesions. These are divided into the colitides, diverticular disease, tumours, and miscellaneous. An introduction and review of the clinical considerations in each chapter provide a detailed and pertinent background to the radiological accounts, which are authoritative and supported by extensive and up to date references. I found the text easy to read and full of useful practical points which stem from the authors' extensive experience. Points of actual image interpretation tended to be brought out more in the legends than in the text, which is a matter of choice rather than criticism.

I enjoyed reading this book, and regard it as a leading exposé on the subject, to be recommended highly.

C I BARTRAM

Pretest manual of clinical gastroenterology By G L Bongiovanni. (Pp. 581; illustrated; £11.95.) New York: McGraw Hill. 1983.

Yet another potted gastroenterology! This volume written by staff at the Massachusetts General

Hospital, Boston, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, New York, is aimed at medical students, junior hospital staff, and general practitioners. It is too large and too thick to be considered as a pocket book. It covers both gastroenterology and disorders of the liver and biliary tract, and has a chapter on hyperalimentation. It is written as a series of numbered lists. Unlike many of its competitors it is a useful book to which to refer when actually dealing with a clinical problem. It does not replace larger reference texts, but the coverage of many common conditions (and some less common conditions such as Whipple's Disease and parasitic infections) is certainly comprehensive.

It suffers, like many American texts, from a neglect of some drugs in common use in Britain and other countries, and from undue caution about the use of intravenous lipid in parenteral nutrition. Jaundice is still classified as haemolytic, obstructive (or cholestatic), or hepatocellular, but the balance is redressed somewhat as 'unconjugated hyperbilirubinaemia' is used for subsequent diagnostic classification, and most parenchymal causes of obstruction are included in the sections on hepatitis and cirrhosis. The index is poor which makes it difficult to find some information contained in the text. As one might expect most of the references are to American publications. The book has a large spiral binding but this does not ensure that the pages lie flat.

I suspect that this book will prove popular in the United States. At £11.95, it may not do too well in Britain. But it contains much of value and is worth considering as a quick reference source (for causes of drug jaundice, pancreatitis, protein losing enteropathy etc, and for lists of the complications of, and contraindications to various types of therapy!). A reasonable buy.

NEIL MCINTYRE

Gastrointestinal problems in the infant By J Gryboski and W A Walker. (Pp. 765; illustrated; £60.) Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1983.

This second edition of a well known paediatric gastroenterology text is a welcome addition to the rapidly expanding literature of this subject. This book is truly encyclopaedic in its approach. It is at its most useful in its discussion of rare entities. The statement that a particular disorder is rare in this age group is often reiterated throughout the book. This makes the text an invaluable source of reference to the specialist but may limit its appeal to the more general reader. It is well and comprehensively referenced which is of particular value when

uncommon disorders are concerned. The text is particularly strong in the discussion of liver disease and congenital gut anomalies. The illustrations are in general of a high order and the radiographs are especially useful. Histological figures are not so clear in some cases. The authors do stray well beyond infancy in many cases and this book could easily be extended as a text of gastrointestinal problems of childhood as a whole and not just of infancy. In coverage of more common entities the text is sometimes less satisfactory, and the views expressed at some variance to established practice in Britain. For example, a table listing antimicrobial treatment for bacterial infections of the gastrointestinal might imply that antibiotics should always be given which is certainly not recommended here. No mention is made of a carrier state resulting from antibiotic therapy for salmonellosis. The statement that hydrogen breath test should now be the diagnostic tool for sugar malabsorption in infancy rather than testing for stool reducing substances with Clinitest tablets is impractical in most centres in Britain and may not indeed be true. It would be churlish, however, to be too critical of a text which is an important and valuable addition to the literature of paediatric gastroenterology, and the authors are to be commended on the obvious care and attention given to the preparation of this important text.

J A WALKER-SMITH

Traitement medical et chirurgical des maladies digestives By M Huguier and P Bernades. (Pp. 264; illustrated; price not stated.) Paris: Masson, 1982.

This volume is testimony to the wealth of clinical experience of its authors. Written entirely in French apart from its English index, it is well organised and is said to be 'exclusively devoted to diseases of the gastrointestinal system in the adult'.

It addresses itself to hepatology and gastroenterology and it is designed to enable 'the doctor to be familiar with the scope of surgical treatment (and the surgeon), as well as the results of medical treatment'.

It is a laudable joint effort, clearly written, and unpretentious. It makes no attempt to be exhaustive but contains a number of appropriate references, more of which come from the current British literature than are to be found in many current North American writings.

I was not shown the price but for those conversant with scientific French and interested in the subject, the book provides an interesting glimpse of current French clinical thinking.

H D RITCHIE

Surgery of the alimentary tract By Richard T Shackelford and George D Zuidema. (Pp. 702; illustrated; £64.50.) Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1983.

This volume (4) on the surgery of the alimentary tract is devoted to the pancreas, biliary tract, liver, and spleen. I found this to be an extremely attractive compilation, well-illustrated, providing sound but not excessive operative advice and detail. It was surprisingly up-to-date for such a large book consisting of 700 pages. It should be in every general surgical library and would be of value to all general surgeons who need specialised information on surgery of the pancreas and liver, both of which organs can provide serious and sometimes unexpected surgical challenges.

The editors are to be congratulated on the competence of their chosen authors and the speed with which they have put the text together. The contemporary nature of the work is shown by references to Cyclosporin A, pancreas transplantation, and some of the recent data on liver grafting.

R Y CALNE

News

Course in Gastroenterology, Oxford, 8-11 January 1984

This course is designed for consultants and registrars, including those who do not specialise in gastroenterology. It will consist of selected topics which are of current interest in relation to the normal functioning of the digestive system and its diseases. Further details from Dr D P Jewell, Gastroenterology Unit, The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU.

Research Session on Digestive Disease and Aging - DDW 1984

During DDW 1984 in New Orleans there will be an evening poster presentation-discussion session on 'Aging and digestive disease'. Approximately 8-10 abstracts will be chosen, selected from regular abstracts submitted to DDW. Those who think their abstracts might be suitable should write 'AGING' at the right hand corner of their regular submitted abstract. Further details: Dr P R Holt, GE Division, St Luke's Hospital, Amsterdam Ave at 114th St, New York, NY 10025, USA.