overgrowth. Tropical gastroenterology is not covered. But overall Professor Bouchier's format for *Recent advances* is both useful and effective. This is a book which most practising gastroenterologists will read and use repeatedly; that is until the next edition appears in three years' time.

G NEALE

Nutritional support in hospital practice By D B A Silk. (Pp. 184; illustrated; £10.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1983.

This book is a reflection of the growing interest in clinical nutrition. The rapid growth of the subject has led to confusion over the selection of the most appropriate method of providing support as well as the indications and associated complications.

This uncomplicated practical single author text based on the personal experience in establishing a clinical service is most welcome as it provides a practical guide for the provision of nutritional support in hospital.

It begins logically with a consideration of the importance of the team approach. The pitfalls and difficulties in recognising malnutrition in hospital are reviewed critically and the real indications for nutritional support emphasised. The nutritional requirements of various groups of patients are considered including the special problems of liver and kidney disease, and the increased metabolic demands of the seriously injured.

There is quite correctly considerable emphasis on enteral feeding and this section includes a useful review of the mechanisms of intestinal absorption. The complications which can occur even with the simple tube are not neglected. Parenteral nutrition is given appropriate emphasis in a very practical manner paying particular attention to the insertion and care of intravenous catheters.

The main attributes of this book are its authority and clarity which makes it particularly useful for anyone setting up or joining a nutritional care team, and there are ample references for those interested in exploring the more controversial aspects of the subject.

I D A JOHNSTON

Computed tomography of the pancreas. Edited by S S Siegelman. (Pp. 275; illustrated; £30.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1983.

Pancreatic cancer is now the fourth most common cause of death due to malignancy with a survival rate of less than 10% at five years. Any method of earlier diagnosis is therefore welcome. Computed tomography can certainly diagnose most malignant tumours at time of presentation but as yet has not

influenced the prognosis. In pancreatitis, however, pseudocyst formation is readily uncovered resulting in a more rational therapeutic approach.

Another important aspect of diagnosis is in determining inoperability by detecting vascular encasement and metastases in liver and lung. Computed tomography, furthermore, also allows accurate percutaneous cytology and pseudocyst drainage. In most cases, however, similar assessment can be made by ultrasonography, computed tomography being used thereafter if necessary.

Irrespective of its undoubted clinical value the anatomical detail that can now be displayed is remarkable. The pancreas can be clearly separated from surrounding blood vessels and the many variations in size, shape, and position recognised. Nevertheless, it is uncommon to visualise insulinomas.

The present position of computed tomography is presented in a well balanced account. This is a pleasant, informative, and accurate account containing the basic information required by practising radiologists and will furnish clinicians with a reference as to the possibility of this imaging modality.

LOUIS KREEL

News

BSG Spring Meeting: Salford

The Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held from 25–27 April 1984 at the University of Salford under the presidency of Dr R B McConnell. The first day was devoted to an international teaching day held jointly with the Nutrition Society. The plenary and scientific sessions of the Society were held on the following two days. The Research Medal for 1983 was awarded to Dr W D W Rees who delivered a lecture on 'the mucus-bicarbonate barrier – its role in gastric mucosal defence'. The Hopkins Endoscopy Prize was awarded to Dr J Dawson. The Conference Dinner was held in the Great Hall of Manchester Town Hall and the social programme included a reception at the Salford City Art Gallery.

Notice to Conference Organisers

Organisers of conferences, symposia, congresses and courses who wish to have brief details inserted in this column for the benefit of readers of *Gut* are asked to note that copy should be received in the editorial office *not less than four months* before the desired date of publication. In general, only the title of the meeting, the dates and location, and the name and address of the organisers will be published.