Dawson should take up the cudgels against the publishers. The colour in these bears no relation to the standard red and blue of haematoxylin and eosin.

Most appealing is Professor Dawson's personal touch throughout the text. One is given his opinion and experiences, not an impersonal account of diseases common to most textbooks. The book by modern standards is not expensive and histopathologists aside I am sure it is of value to clinicians. A quick glance at the right picture and you are fully armed to argue the toss with your pathologist at the weeks gastrointestinal conference.

ASHLEY B PRICE

Clinical reactions to food Edited by Professor M H Lessof. (Pp. 222; illustrated; \$14.50.) Chichester: Wiley, 1983.

In recent years there has been growing interest in the role of specific foods in provoking disease. Despite the obvious importance of the gut in food reactions, gastroenterologists have not been prominent in this field, and most of the impetus has been provided by practitioners of fringe medicine whose claims of the importance of 'food allergy' have been so sweeping as to excite derision rather than to promote scientific research. Professor Lessof, therefore, is to be congratulated on producing the first book which objectively documents the known facts of the relationship between specific foods and diseases.

Perhaps the most interesting contributions include those on 'Food allergy in childhood' by Professor J F Soothill, and 'Reactions to foods in adults' by Professor Lessof himself. There are other, important contributions on 'Immunology and physiology of digestion' by Anne Ferguson and Stephan Strobel, and 'Coeliac disease, inflammatory bowel disease and food intolerance' by W T Cooke and G K T Holmes. It was perhaps unnecessary to include an article on the psychiatric aspects of eating, and it is unfortunate that the excellent contribution by Dr Moneret-Vautrin, which is probably the most important in the book in terms of understanding the mechanisms of these reactions, should have been entitled 'False food allergy', a term which has unfortunate connotations suggesting that such a food reaction is psychological.

In the years to come the attention of gastroenterologists will be drawn more and more to the problem of what their patients eat. This book makes an excellent introduction for those who wish to keep abreast of these problems.

J O HUNTER

The digestive system By R J Bolt, P E S Palmer, B H Ruebner, and D W Watson. (Pp. 429; illustrated; £22.50.) New York: John Wiley, 1983.

This is a short soft backed book covering the whole of the alimentary tract, pancreas, and liver. It is clearly aimed at American undergraduate medical students. For the most part chapters are organ based and each begins with a description of the normal anatomy and function followed by a review of the methods of evaluating that organ by radiological, pathological, and other techniques. Finally, there are descriptions of diseases of the relevant organ in which an attempt is made to relate the disease and its manifestations to disorders of structure and function. These chapters are thus the result of a laudable effort to bring together the normal anatomy and physiology with clinical disease. Unfortunately, the final result is somewhat unbalanced and clinical aspects receive a rather superficial treatment compared with radiology for example. Thus there is rather more on Hirschsprung's disease than there is on Crohn's disease; the irritable bowel syndrome receives only a half a page of text; diseases of the anus and rectum are dealt with in one page, almost as much as Schatzky's ring receives. In parts the text is outdated and the references for background reading are often to old rather than new literature. There are a few errors. For example, tannic acid is suggested as being a useful adjunct to barium enema. Gastric ulcers are said to occur commonly at the junction of the pyloric and duodenal mucosa and pirenzepine is misspelt.

The book is clearly aimed at an undergraduate level in the United States. Postgraduates in the UK will find the clinical aspects dealt with too superficially for them.

L A TURNBERG

Esophageal function in health and disease Edited by Donald O Castell and L F Johnson. (Pp. 372; illustrated; \$32.50.) Barking, Essex: Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

The editors of this book are unnecessarily modest in the claims they make for it. They maintain that there is no need for a comprehensive new book on clinical disorders of the oesophagus, and that they have simply produced an account of oesophageal function aimed at clinicians. In my view the result has been a good book on oesophageal disease. Both editors are experts in the study of oesophageal function, a proper starting point for the discussion of an actively mobile organ, but its anatomy and structural disorders are comprehensively covered – for

example, in a section of great practical value on oesophageal obstruction.

The editors' philosophy provide a framework for the book, and although there are 20 contributors, only six of the 22 (unnumbered) chapters does not have one of the editors as co-author.

The only omissions of note were the absence from the sensible chapter on oesophageal causes of chest pain of the recent useful work from Cardiff, and the relationship of asthma to gastro-oesophageal reflux was not discussed. Some practical procedures – the use of Celestin's dilators and balloon dilators for example – are mentioned only briefly, the authors wisely confining themselves to techniques of which they have personal experience. Radiological illustrations are good, even though the book is not printed on glossy paper.

The presentation is marred by the American obsession with acronyms, the space saved by their use being squandered on terms like 'state-of-the-art equipment' and other circumlocutions. None of this makes the book any less essential for the gastroenterology library as the best currently available information on oesophageal disorders.

J R BENNETT

Clinical radiology of the liver (2 parts) Edited by Hans Herlinger, Anders Lunderquist, and Sidney Wallace. (Pp. 1224; illustrated; SFr780.) New York: Marcel Dekker Inc, 1983.

This two part text constitutes volume 1 of a new *Diagnostic Radiology Series*. There are 32 contributors, 17 from North America, and the emphasis is hepatic rather than biliary, the pancreas being largely avoided.

Part A deals with anatomy and physiology and describes in detail the range of diagnostic and interventional techniques now available. In part B the radiological investigation and management of specific clinical situations and pathological lesions are described. This format inevitably results in considerable overlap but the editors have encouraged this to present differences of opinion. It does, however, mean that an extensive search may be required to find all the text and illustrations related to a particular lesion. Throughout both parts there is a strong emphasis on angiography in all its aspects, reflecting the interest and experience of the three editors and it will be interesting to see how the impact of digital subtraction techniques affects subsequent editions. The overall quality of illustration is extremely high, these being numerous, large, and clearly annotated. A minor irritation is that serial figures of a particular case may have the

main legend under the final figure several pages beyond the initial figure and associated text. In the reviewer's copy one figure referred to in the text on hepatic embolisation was missing.

Although the intentional emphasis is on hepatic rather than biliary radiology, the chapter on direct cholangiography is disappointing and several of the illustrations chosen, even of common lesions, fall below the overall high standard. Stone extraction techniques and endoscopic sphincterotomy are only briefly mentioned but there is a whole chapter on choledochoscopy *via* the T-tube tract.

This is undoubtedly a major work and must be the most detailed and extensively illustrated text available on diagnostic and interventional radiology of the liver. It is an essential acquisition for any department with a specialist interest in gastroenterology and liver disease, especially one which performs regular angiography.

D J LINTOTT

Liver in metabolic diseases Edited by L Bianchi, W Gerok, L Landmann, K Sickinger, and G A Stalder. (Pp. 447; price not stated) Lancaster: MTB Press, 1983.

There is now a plethora of books about the liver and liver disease; thus potential authors/editors and publishers must ask themselves at least two questions. First, is there a need for the book which we propose to produce? Second, who are we hoping will buy this book. To these the reviewer must add 'Is this book any good?'

The liver in metabolic diseases contains the proceedings of the 35th Falk Symposium held in 1982. There are 42 chapters ranging from 'Fructose 2, 6-biphosphate: a third messenger in endocrine regulation in liver metabolism?' to up to date reviews of Wilson's disease and glycogen storage disease. Although the topics are heterogenous, held together only by a tenuous common thread of 'metabolic disease', they have been very well chosen by the editors. Many of the topics are very hard to find in standard texts, many represent lacunae, at least in this reviewer's knowledge and they are for the most part well written and up to date. I would particularly commend chapters on collagen metabolism (Hahn), mechanisms of liver metastases (Burger and Madnick) and serum albumin in liver disease (Rothschild *et al*).

Thus to answer the questions for the editors of this book I would say 'yes, this fills in many nooks and crannies left vacant by large standard texts'. Both clinicians interested in liver disease should certainly browse extensively in the book as soon as