references, but these are rather patchy and tend to refer only to other textbooks. There are no references on common symptoms.

This book will have little appeal for regular readers of *Gut*, but it was not intended for them. At £19.95 I cannot imagine it will have any appeal for British medical students or postgraduates either. Certainly they can buy equivalent books more cheaply.

NEIL MCINTYRE

Intestinal transport: fundamental and comparative aspects Edited by M Gilles-Baillien and R Gilles. (Pp. 375; illustrated: \$38.90.) Berlin: Springer, 1983.

This compilation of 26 papers on intestinal transport presented at a conference in 1982 contains four sections. The first is on methodology and the influence of extracellular compartments, and the second on molecular aspects of membrane transport – for example, lipid-protein interactions, and includes studies using vesicles. The third section deals with neurohumoral control including intracellular influences of Ca, K and cyclic nucleotides and the final section with comparative aspects and includes accounts of work on fish (13 different species), bird, silkworm, bull frog and elephant; clinical studies are scarcely referred to. Twelve of the articles are based on experiments using electrophysiological techniques, not necessarily of the Ussing-chamber type, but no one yet seems to have used the patch-clamp technique of Neher and Sackmann for the study of single transmembrane channels in enterocytes. Particularly recommended is the chapter by Englehardt and Reckemmer on the absorption by the colon of inorganic ions and short-chain fatty acids. Although the quality of the articles varies, the editing is excellent (but compare the paracellular routes in the electrical analogues on pages 305 and 326), and the reader is spared a record of the discussions. Unless these are well organised and edited as in Ciba symposia, such accounts are rarely useful. The index is comprehensive and as is usual with this publisher, the volume is beautifully produced. It is well worth a place in a departmental library.

D S PARSONS

Gastrointestinal endoscopy and related procedures By M M Ravenscroft and C H J Swan. (Pp. 256; illustrated; £9.95.) London: Chapman and Hall, 1984.

This is a practical book written primarily for nurses and assistants by the nurse in charge and the senior gastroenterologist at the Stoke City General

Hospital – a unit which long has had a high reputation for its interest in teaching endoscopy. Each part of the gastrointestinal tract is dealt with anatomically with a very brief outline of its structure, its function and common pathology. This is aimed at giving the nurse an insight into the role of each part of the gastrointestinal tract. The tests are then described including the preparation of the patient, any possible complications that might occur and the nurses role is emphasised throughout. The text is well written, but sadly it starts on a low spot in the very first line on the foreword where the invention of the fiberoptic endoscope was apparently made in 1888! It is then followed by a rather uncertain chapter giving an overall view of the nurses role which contributes less than the other chapters to the overall effect of the book. It then gets down to business with a description of the facilities of a GI Unit, of the equipment that it should carry, giving clear lists, and excellent diagrams of several practical procedures such as clearing block channels in the instruments which are of real value. There are frequent check lists throughout and this must be of immense help to any harassed GI Unit especially if there is any turnover of staff.

There are no endoscopic photographs or descriptions of technique (these are covered by other texts such as Cotton and Williams) but the reproduction of radiograph plates and sometimes equipment is only just adequate. Despite these comments, however, the book more than achieves what it sets out to do. It provides a practical text for the nurse assistant in the endoscopy unit and is full of ideas and practical tips which make the running of the unit more efficient and the care of the instruments much more satisfactory. I am in no doubt that every unit really should have a copy of this book available, for it would benefit not only the nurse, but through her the endoscopist and the patient.

D G COLIN-JONES

News

European Organisation for Cooperation in Cancer Prevention Studies

Third Annual ECP Symposium will take place in Aarhus, Denmark, from 19–21 June 1985, on the topic 'Diet and human carcinogenesis'. Further information from Mr J Geboers, c/o Division of Epidemiology, Sint-Rafael University Hospital, Capucijnenvoer 33, B-3000, Leuven, Belgium.