Chromium-51-EDTA and Technetium-99-m DTPA for assessment of small bowel Crohn's disease. *J Nucl Med* 1984; **25**: 60P.

- 6 Maxton DG, Bjarnason I, Reynolds AP, Peters TJ, Menzies IS. Comparison of four different markers of intestinal permeability. I. Effect of detergent and test dose osmolarity. *Clin Sci* 1984; **67**: 65P.
- 7 Newton JA, Maxton DG, Bjarnason I, *et al.* Intestinal permeability in eczema. *Clin Sci* 1984; **67**: 64-5P.
- 8 Jenkins RT, Goodacre RL, Rooney PR, Hunt RM, Bienstock J. Intestinal permeability in inflammatory disease. [Abstract] *Gut* 1984; **25**: A1166-7

Books

Clinics in immunology and allergy Vol 3 No 3 **Natural mechanisms of immunity** Edited by R B Heberman. (Pp. 571; illustrated; £11.75.) Eastbourne: W B Saunders, 1983.

This is a new series of *Clinics* which was introduced in 1982. It follows the familiar format and this particular volume is devoted to reviewing the mechanisms of natural immunity. Triggering of immunological effector mechanisms is usually considered to result from exposure to antigen. These mechanisms may be cellular, mediated by sensitised T cells, or humoral, mediated by sensitised B cells. Certain immunological reactivity, however, can be detected in individuals which have not been intentionally immunised - this is termed 'natural immunity'.

The first two chapters review the evidence for naturally occurring antibody to oncogenic viruses and tumour cells, both in animals and man. The possible origin of these antibodies and their role in controlling viral infections and in tumour surveillance is extensively discussed. These chapters are followed by a concise account of the complement system and the clinical syndromes resulting from deficiencies of the complement components. The role of the gastrointestinal tract in preventing antigen-entry into the body is covered by R J Levinsky. The rest of the volume deals with natural killer cell activity and its role in tumour immunity, the production of interferon by natural killer cells, and the role of macrophages in cancer surveillance and in controlling infection.

This volume is full of information and is, in general, well presented. It is certainly not intended for the general reader but those with some immunological knowledge will find some excellent reviews here.

D P JEWELL

Diagnostic ultrasound in gastroenterology Edited by L Bolondi, G Labo, and L Gandolfi. (Pp. 544; illustrated; £48.) Fotocromo Emiliana: Bologna, 1984.

The Italians have taken a keen interest in ultrasound for many years, and with sales of ultrasound equipment almost three times as great as in the United Kingdom. The authors are all very experienced in ultrasound but are gastroenterologists rather than radiologists.

The book is an instructional text for those performing and interpreting abdominal ultrasound. There is very little clinical material or clinical discussion. This is surprising considering the background of the authors and I think that few of my clinical colleagues would be willing to trawl through the text to find the material relevant to them.

From the viewpoint of the radiologist the first 100 pages is unnecessary. This covers background physics and techniques which are more thoroughly covered in other textbooks. Of the three guest chapters only that on guided puncture procedures by Otto is good. Dr Magnos's chapter on endoscopic ultrasonography fails to show the potential of this important new method, despite the author's eminence in the field.

The core of the book, on abdominal scanning is well illustrated and well referenced and is up to date in methodology. It is a useful read for those involved in scanning but not worth the price of £48.

W R LEES

Books received

Intensive care in hepatology and gastroenterology By A Gauthier. (Pp. 221; illustrated; price not stated.) Paris, France: Masson, 1984.

Tutorials in PG medicine. Clinical endocrinology Edited by W M Keynes and P B S Fowler. (Pp. 698; illustrated; £32.00.) London: Heinemann, 1984.

News

2nd International Symposium on Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

This symposium will take place in Jerusalem, Israel, from 8-11 September 1985. Further details from the Secretariat, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.