gastric intestinal metaplasia present a complex problem if one reads the original literature, but Dr Day distills out the key observations required for a diagnostic approach. The same applies to the section on lymphomas, another complex area. As well as the five chapters on the stomach, there are three on the oesophagus and two on the duodenum. Those on the latter two sites fill a useful void in the literature for what are generally considered poor pathological sisters to the excitement of gastric pathology. The book finishes with a helpful section on upper gastrointestinal cytology contributed by Dr O Husain.

The illustrations are clear and well organised, being close to the relevant text. For clinicians who regularly sit in on biopsy sessions to review the weeks endoscopies, they form a valuable source of reference to check up on the pathologists diagnoses.

I strongly recommend this moderately priced book to pathology departments receiving any upper gastrointestinal material and to clinicians keen to understand the language of their pathology department.

There is one obvious omission, for *Campylobacter pylori* is not mentioned. I imagine however, this organism only reached the news stand as Dr Day with a huge sigh of relief posted off the final proofs. It will be an addition to look forward to in the second edition.

ASHLEY B PRICE

Silvergirl's surgery biliary tract Edited by James O Robinson. (Pp. 233; illustrated; £38.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, 1987.

Many a young aspiring surgeon, physician, radiologist or pathologist may wish to write a paper or prepare a dissertation on diseases related to the biliary tract. What then could be more suitable than an erudite historical introduction? To them this brief annotated historical review and reprint of ancient and classical articles will prove a boon. Even if you are not writing an article or thesis you will enjoy delving into the history of biliary disease; to tiptoe across the stepping stones of medical history will prove both stimulating and humbling.

This work is a collection of classical papers that have illuminated the progress of the elucidation, investigation, and treatment of biliary disease. The first paper is a fascinating 'Digest of historical literature' written in 1863 by Jophann Thudichum. It is followed by Jean-Louis Petit's account of empyema of the gall bladder written in 1743 and Theodor Kocher's story of 'Head-sized empyema of the gall bladder treated by incision'.

The articles are well chosen, well translated, and

well edited. A few accompanying photographs of the authors and sometimes their patients add to the charm of the publication. I would have enjoyed even more biographical notes and even more photographs. It will be sad if the cost deters many from adding this slim volume to their personal library.

J ALEXANDER-WILLIAMS

Clinical gastroenterology Vol 1, no 1. Liver tumours Edited by R Williams, and P J Johnson. (Pp. 210; illustrated; £15.) London: Baillière Tindall, 1987.

After many years the well known format of *Clinics in gastroenterology* has changed, being replaced by an American series and a British version called *Clinical gastroenterology*. The first issue on liver tumours is thus of particular interest.

The format is identical to its predecessor with good line drawings and extensive up to date references. The subject is tackled extremely well by contributors who have particular experience in aspects of liver tumours ranging from aetiology to diagnosis and treatment. In particular, innovative techniques such as the diagnostic and therapeutic use of monoclonal antibodies and the use of implantable cytotoxic delivery systems are critically reviewed.

The overall impression given by this volume is that, despite the poor prognosis of liver tumours, research in molecular biology, biochemistry and oncology offers hope for the future. The editors of the first issue of *Clinical gastroenterology* have contributed well to the future success of the series.

M MYSZOR AND C O RECORD

News

BSG Jubilee Meeting

The Jubilee Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held in the University of London Institute of Education and School of Oriental and African Studies from 15–18 September 1987 under the Presidency of Mr John Alexander-Williams. The programme was structured to provide parallel continuous sequences of scientific presentations and BSG/Glaxo International Teaching Sessions; interspersed in these events, there were various symposia and lectures. The very large number of communications that were selected – 365 oral and poster communications – reflected not only the pent up