disease, etc) but this is only possible if subspecialists are freed from the burden of managing disorders in which they have little interest or expertise. This may or may not prove to be more expensive, but what is required above all is a change of attitude to the structure of hospital practice and undergraduate and postgraduate training.

Meanwhile, buy the book for yourself.

DAVID WINGATE

Baillière's clinical gastroenterology: international practice and research: Vol 2 Nutritional support. Edited by H J G Burns. (Pp. 239; illustrated; £18.50.) London: Baillière Tindall, 1988.

If any physicians were to pick up this book in anticipation of reading about nutritional support for gastroenterological patients they are likely to be disappointed. This book struck me as being written largely by surgeons for surgeons. Several other volumes in recent years have covered similar ground so, is another review warranted?

This volume is neither simply a practical guide nor a theoretical one but is a refreshing mixture of the two. A particularly attractive feature is the price which must in these inflationary times be difficult to beat. I enjoyed the practical aspects of Alan Shenkin's chapter on vitamins and trace elements, a topic which is difficult to make attractive for clinicians. Gastroenterologists would almost certainly enjoy reading the chapter on enteral nutrition as it contains an interesting and up-to-date account of intestinal absorption of nutrients.

This book suffers from an almost complete absence of illustrations. This was particularly upsetting in Andrew Sim's chapter on vascular access for parenteral nutrition, where I as a non-surgeon would like to have seen pictures of his techniques. Furthermore, although protein sources along with many other essential nutrients were completely reviewed, energy sources were largely ignored.

In conclusion this is an attractive complement to an existing successful series. I am not sure who will appreciate it most. Those who are already competent in nutritional management of gastrointestinal disease will find it a useful update in some areas, although those who are at the beginning of their learning will probably need to turn largely elsewhere.

R V HEATLEY

Endosonography in gastroenterology. By Thian Lok Tio. (Pp. 120; illustrated; DM120.) Berlin: Springer Verlag, 1988.

Endoscopic ultra sonography is a relatively new technique which requires particular skill both technically in manoeuvring the instrument, but especially in interpreting the results. There is a long learning

period in order to make this a valuable asset in patient management. Therefore, a practical book in this subject should be welcomed. The author is writing of his own experience and although quoting from the literature the chapters are orientated about his own clinical experience with endosonography. There are 12 chapters, several of which curiously overlap with considerable duplication. The strength of the book lies in superb illustrations from pathology specimens and sometimes radiographs of the appearances of the endosonograph. The ultrasound pictures are carefully marked so as to enable the reader to interpret the often difficult shadows displayed. A great deal of care has been taken to correlate the appearances with pathology and the author is to be congratulated on it.

Having said that, unfortunately this book has many weaknesses. It is essentially a description of the author's experience which in some aspects of endoscopic ultra sonography seems to be very limited. It is then neither the book for the raw beginner because it has very little in the way of technical points about the equipment, the choice of equipment for particular uses, nor does it have more than the barest details about how to perform endoscopic ultra sonography. On the other hand the relatively small series of patients in some of the chapters means that this is not the book for the moderately experienced either, so it is difficult to see where this book fits in. Added to that it is not well written. The chapters are disorganised with duplication and the style is so dry that I feel it must have been written on sabbatical in the Sahara! I see this book as being of limited value – it is a great pity that the writing did not match up to the care that has so clearly been taken in matching the endoscopic ultra sonography pictures with pathology.

D G COLIN-JONES

Surgery of the stomach. Edited by H D Becker, Ch Herfarth, W Lierse and H W Schreiber. (Pp. 374; illustrated; DM390.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1988.

This book is the English translation of *Surgery of the stomach*, the German edition of which was first published in 1986. The editors have put together an impressive team of 24 contributors, most of whom are drawn from Germany. Outside contributors, such as Professors E Amdrup, L F Hollender, D Johnston and L Olbe ensure, however, that this is not a parochial work. The book sets out to be an operative textbook presenting established surgical procedures as they affect the stomach and proximal duodenum. General preoperative preparation, indications and postoperative management are also considered but in some cases the indications are set out simply as a list and the lack of discussion may not be particularly helpful to the surgical trainee. In