

of modern medicine and the medical sciences'. Consultants in all fields will find this series gives them a really up-to-date picture of basic sciences and their practical application in medical practice.

Journées françaises d'informatique médicale et hospitalière. This publication brings together studies on physics and mathematics applied to medicine in France with special reference to mechanical documentation and use of computers. There is a section on computer diagnosis of liver diseases. Essentially a book for the super specialist in computer-aided medicine. The book is published by Institut de recherche d'informatique et d'automatique, Rocquencourt, France. 50 Fr.

Surgical symposia tend to be unexpectedly good sources of gastroenterological papers. This is true for this symposium on unexpected complications of surgery published in volume 50, no. 2, April 1970, **The surgical clinics of North America** (W. B. Saunders Co., price 45s). There are contributions on duodenal diverticula, acute cholecystitis following surgery, phytobezoars following gastric surgery, and pancreatic pseudocysts. The sections on operative collapse after corticosteroid therapy, endotoxin shock, and on improving the survival of the critically ill surgical patient are of special general interest. Altogether a worthwhile symposium.

Smooth Muscle (Edward Arnold, £10). Twenty authors engaged in smooth muscle research have been brought together in this comprehensive and im-

portant account of current activity in this field. The chapters have in fact all been written by people who, at one stage in their career have worked under Professor Edith Bülbbring in the Department of Pharmacology at Oxford. This volume represents a milestone in our knowledge of this vital structure throughout the alimentary tract and will indeed serve as a useful review for workers in the field as well as a stimulus for future investigations.

Tumour Specific Transplantation Antigen is the title of this monograph of 78 pages (Heinemann, London, and Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York). Tumour specific transplantation antigen has been demonstrated in a variety of experimental tumours, particularly those induced by oncogenic viruses and carbohydrate carcinogens. Although clear evidence cannot as yet be provided for human cancer, it has at least been shown that some human tumours will contain tumour specific transplantation antigen and that immune reactions against tumour specific transplantation antigen will also be elicited in man. This book by Pavel Koldovsky is one which should be read by all those concerned with cancer therapy or research.

Human Schistosomiasis by Peter Jordan and Gerald Webbe. This disease probably affects over 200 million people especially in Africa and South America. Today with so much world travel the disease is now increasingly seen in Europe and America, and most gastroenterologists will be coming in contact with it. This timely publication brings together present-day information about this disease to assist all those who have to deal with it. The book is pleasantly compact and read-

able, and is well illustrated with a comprehensive bibliography.

Liver Disease. by A. Paton. Heinemann London, 30s. This slim monograph of 185 pages provides an introduction to present-day classification and ideas on mechanisms and treatment of liver diseases. It does not attempt to probe in depth but paints a broad canvas. It arose from a series of lectures for postgraduate students and for clinicians wishing to develop a greater interest in gastroenterology. This book provides a most useful introduction to problems which concern diseases of the liver. It succeeds splendidly in this objective.

Morphological and Physiological Aspects of Anal Continence and Defaecation, edited by R. Kerremans (Presses Academiques, Brussels). This is a study in depth of ano-rectal function. It presents a very detailed account of the anatomy of the pelvis, both macro and micro, and then describes the observations made using moulds of the anus in resected specimens. The scope and technique of cine radiography, of intraluminal pressure recordings and electromyography are all described in great detail and with reference to modern pharmacological advances concerning smooth and striated muscle. This monograph, with a foreword by A. M. Connell, is a book for physiologists and proctologists.

Correction

On page 95 (*Gut*, 11, 91-99) of the February issue we regret that Figure 3a is printed upside down, and in the legend to Figures 4b and 4c the correct symbols are: * = shapes; ■ = capsule; ● = marker on umbilicus.