

As this book is intended for the non-specialist, rather more emphasis might have been placed on the immunological basis of diagnosis and treatment of many of the diseases discussed, although most of the information can be obtained by the discerning reader. It is inevitable that much new information has been published since the preparation of this book. However, this does not detract from the value of this useful account which is published at a remarkably reasonable price.

D. P. JEWELL

Gut Hormones Edited by S. R. Bloom. (Pp. 664; illustrated; £15.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1978.

The book is based on papers presented at a symposium held in the summer of 1977 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the discovery of secretin by Bayliss and Starling. The theme underlying the symposium is the unity of the mechanisms for coordinating the activities of the different systems of the body, on the basis that similar chemical messenger substances of peptide nature are involved in the local (neural and paracrine) and in the more distant (endocrine) transmission of regulatory information. Although its title is *Gut Hormones*, the book summarises information about many peptide substances occurring not only in the gut and related organs like pancreas, but in other tissues including endocrine glands and, more important, within the central nervous system and peripheral nerves. Moreover, the book amply illustrates that 'gut hormones' are capable not only of modifying the functions of the alimentary tract, but also exert important effects on other bodily systems.

A brief overview is followed by a general section dealing with the chemical isolation and synthesis of the many different functionally active peptides which have been derived, not only from the alimentary tract of mammals, but from many other species ranging from primitive to man. As a result, it has been possible to analyse the evolutionary development of these hormones and to trace their cellular sources of origin in the different species.

The technical problems encountered in the identification and measurement of the hormones also receive attention. However, the bulk of the book contains up-to-date accounts of the chemical and physiological properties of the individual hormones, ranging from the traditional 'gut hormones' gastrin, secretin, and cholecystokinin to the endorphins, originally

isolated from the central nervous system, but recently found in the alimentary tract.

Sections are also devoted to review of hormone-hormonal interactions as exemplified by the 'enteropancreatic axis' and to aspects of neurohormonal interaction. The book ends with sections dealing with two pathophysiological aspects of gut hormones—peptide-secreting tumours and duodenal ulcer.

The book is a well set-out, comprehensive review of the early stages of the potentially very important field of hormonal messengers in the context of overall control of bodily function. The book is made more valuable by the fact that the publishers have made the papers available well within a year of the symposium.

K. G. WORMSLEY

Surgery of the Stomach and Duodenum Third edition. Edited by Lloyd M. Nyhus and Christopher Wastell. (Pp. 788; illustrated; \$49.95). Little, Brown: Boston. 1977.

This is an eagerly awaited update of what is regarded as the best available textbook on the subject. It is a mark of respect for the British contribution that Christopher Wastell is joint editor. Both editors have invited collaborators and each chapter is written by a recognised authority on the subject. Perhaps one of the best features is the addition of invited commentaries by other eminent contributors.

The whole range of topics related to gastroduodenal disease is considered, and adequate attention is paid to the situations where controversy exists over conservative versus operative treatment. There are good references to surgical techniques without detracting from the interest of the medical gastroenterologist.

Despite multiple authors, the editors have been careful to ensure that there are none of the radical changes in style which can mar books of this type. The reproduction of half-tone drawings, photomicrographs, radiographs, and figures is of high quality and none of the tables is superfluous. Considerable advances have taken place since the last edition in 1969, but the rate of progress in subjects such as H_2 antagonists and gut endocrines has inevitably exceeded the evidence available from the text. This may mean that the next edition will need to appear after a relatively short interval. Hopefully some advance in the treatment of gastric cancer will allow expansion of the relatively short section devoted to this topic.

This is essential reading for all gastroenterologists and a most suitable reference book for those postgraduate students acquiring clinical skills or interested in research. Every institutional library needs it and most specialists will want to buy it for personal use.

C. G. CLARK

Immunology in Medicine Edited by E. J. Holborow and W. J. Reeves. (Pp. 1186; illustrated; £25.) Academic Press: London. 1977.

This new book on clinical immunology is aimed at the practising clinician. Many of the chapters are therefore clinically orientated, and many are written by clinicians well-known for their work in a particular clinical speciality.

As the editors point out, the large majority of doctors have had little training in immunology and in the first 300-odd pages their contributors attempt to correct this by reviewing basic immunological concepts. Even senior clinicians will find this section readable and should not be deterred by a plethora of figures of long amino acid sequences or molecular maps. Simple line drawings, although they might offend the molecular biologist's sense of scientific accuracy, would enhance understanding of the text for the practising clinician.

The reader who might find the basic immunology heavy going should nevertheless consult this book for the sections on general aspects of immunological disease and the descriptions of individual systems, and of malignancy and therapy. Variability in the extent of referencing is always a problem with a multi-author book, but the references could have been more extensive in the otherwise excellent concluding chapters on therapy, since the practising clinician would be more prepared to take on trust unreferenced assertions on immunology than on therapy.

As is apparent to readers of *Gut*, immunology is a major growing point in medicine, and this comprehensive book provides what is currently the most useful and up-to-date work on this subject.

RALPH WRIGHT