enteropathy and another almost as short on malabsorption syndromes. The choice of references, especially in the first part, is strangely arbitrary. The section on parasitic diseases is better organised and provides much useful data in compact form, and the last pages give a useful summary of the main antiparasitic drugs, with data on dosage and toxicity.

H. P. LAMBERT

Operative Surgery General Principles, Breast and Hernia General editors: Charles Rob and Rodney Smith. Consultant editors: Hugh Dudley, Charles Rob, and Rodney Smith. (Pp. 156 Illustrated. £19.) Butterworths: London 1977. Charles Rob's and Rodney Smith's *Operative Surgery* has been the standard comprehensive work on the subject for the past 20 years. It has always relied on a maximum of good illustrations and a minimum of text. All the sections are prepared by recognised authorities.

Most surgical trainees lean heavily on this work and there can be few surgeons who do not study it carefully before undertaking operations with which they are not thoroughly familiar.

The work has now entered its third edition, the original editors have been joined by Hugh Dudley, and there are 18 volumes, covering the whole field of surgery.

This is the rather slim introductory volume on *General Principles, Breast and Hernia*. The general principles include accounts of ligature and suture materials, design and safety in the operating theatre, operative dispositions and ergonomics, and advanced techniques of intravenous therapy. All this is basic to surgery as a whole and repays careful study. Gastrointestinal surgeons will find the sections on intravenous therapy and on hernia particularly valuable. The volume on the abdomen, however, is that which they will use most often.

The whole series should be available for ready reference in every medical library and in every operating theatre suite.

R. B. WELBOURN

Operative Surgery 3rd edition: *Abdomen* Edited by Charles Rob and Rodney Smith. Associate editor Hugh Dudley. (Pp. 509. Illustrated. £42.50.) Butterworths: London. 1977.

The latest edition of this well-known *tour*

de force lives up to the reputation of its predecessors. The text is succinct and the illustrations clear. Although there are many authors there is a continuous theme throughout emphasising safe, meticulous techniques.

There are, however, some small details which might usefully be remedied in future editions. In the chapter on exploratory laparotomy, mention should be made that the lesser sack must be opened to avoid missing pancreatic lesions and posterior gastric ulcers and small carcinomas. The chapter on techniques of anastomosis in gastrointestinal surgery is particularly valuable and deals with the latest views on one layer anastomosis in the lower rectum and the dangers of oesophageal surgery. It is a pity however that the wise advice to avoid non-crushing occlusive clamps in oesophageal anastomoses is ignored in another chapter on total gastrectomy, which also omits to state the minimum length of 45 cm for the Roux loop to prevent bile leaking from the oesophagojejunal anastomosis should dehiscence occur and to prevent biliary reflux oesophagitis.

In dealing with palliative intubation of carcinoma of the hepatic duct the well-tried Terblanche tube could have been mentioned. Endoscopic retrograde sphincterotomy with electrocautery could also be included as one answer to the problem of the retained stone in the common bile duct.

These minor criticisms in no way detract from the excellence of this volume which all surgeons will find a useful addition to their library.

IAN MCCOLL

Developments in Digestive Diseases—Clinical Relevance Edited by J. Edward Berk. (Pp. 199. Illustrated. £15.75.) Lea & Febiger: Philadelphia; Henry Kimpton: London. 1977.

This slim but expensive volume is the first of an intended annual series reviewing advances in gastroenterology. The opening number is subtitled 'clinical relevance' and covers gastrointestinal endoscopy, the lower oesophageal sphincter, medical management of duodenal ulcer, angiography in gastrointestinal haemorrhage, hepatitis viruses, contraceptive pill-induced liver tumours, medical dissolution of gallstones, isoamylase analysis, gastrointestinal gas, and chapters on computed tomography and ultrasound in digestive disorders.

Apart from Zuckerman (hepatitis viruses) the authors are all American and about 80% of the quoted references are from the North American literature. The chapters by Bond and Levitt (gas in the gut) and Castell and Johnson (lower oesophageal sphincter) are authoritative and well written, but those on gastrointestinal endoscopy and medical treatment of duodenal ulcer are pedestrian and detail little personal experience; the chapter on ulcer treatment is more suited to an undergraduate textbook, and deals with cimetidine in four brief paragraphs, allowing H₂ receptor antagonists as much attention as sedatives. The contribution on interventional radiology in gastrointestinal haemorrhage fully documents the techniques but does not really define their place in management—a few case reports with illustrative radiographs are given but neither a series nor a comparative trial is reported. Similarly, in the chapter on dissolution therapy for gallstones, the place of this treatment in the management of a disease at present usually treated by surgery is not spelled out; however, this chapter does contain an excellent review of bile dynamics and the theoretical basis for dissolution therapy. The editor contributes a chapter full of biochemical detail on the separation of isoamylases, confirming the difficulties in clinical application of these techniques at present. The liver fares much better with a lucid and scholarly review from Zuckerman on hepatitis viruses, and a brisk but full account from Nissen on pill-induced liver tumours. The chapter on ultrasound stresses the importance of the operator, but reports relatively little experience; the pictures are clear and well labelled. Unfortunately, CT scanning is done scant justice, with a brief chapter and foggy, poorly labelled illustrations.

This 'recent advances' book is presumably aimed at gastroenterologists, but its chapters are very uneven in quality and a firm editorial hand will be needed if the 'clinical relevance' of its subtitle is to be kept to the fore in the future.

MARTIN SARNER

Hepatotropic Factors Ciba Foundation Symposium No. 55 (new series). (Pp. 405. Illustrated. US \$36.00.) Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1978.

This beautifully produced book gives us the presentations and discussions at a seemingly lively international meeting.