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.

held at the Ciba Foundation in May 1977 to discuss the latest advances in the field of hepatotrophic factors. These mysterious hormonal factors, which perhaps include insulin and glucagon, seem to be important in the regeneration of liver tissue, the control of which is still so obscure and yet so important if we are to understand how the liver recovers from damage. The book is very much for the specialists in the field, and for them it will be essential. It will otherwise have a limited readership, but there are two chapters on the treatment of glycogen storage disease by portal-caval shunt, or by nocturnal feeding. Several chapters are not very readable and I am sceptical of the value of most of the discussions. A less opulent printing of a volume that will be out of date in two years would have reduced its price and widened its ownership, and perhaps it is a pity that Churchill no longer publish these symposia.

R. P. H. THOMPSON

The Hypopharyngeal Diverticulum J. J. M. van Overbeek. (Pp. 136. Paperback Dfl 40.00.) Pergamon: Oxford. 1977. This attractively produced little book represents work for a thesis about treating the dysphagia caused by a pharyngeal pouch by cutting the septum between pouch and oesophagus with an electrocautery down an endoscope. Only a short section of the book is devoted to this technique and its results, which appear to be good. The greater part is an excellent review of the mechanism of swallowing, and of the still mysterious upper closing mechanism of the oesophagus. With simple clinical observations the author casts doubt upon some long cherished but ill-founded beliefs, and brings a new measure of sense and understanding to a difficult area of normal and abnormal physiology. There is a section on manometry of the pharyngo-oesophageal junction in patients before and after treatment which highlights the technical difficulties of the method and the problems of interpretation of the records.

The book is written in excellent English, is well set out, adequately illustrated, and easy to read. Its sections on anatomy, physiology, and cineradiology will make interesting reading for any gastroenterologist, who should not be put off by the rather limited title.

D. A. W. EDWARDS

Gastric Precanceroses Edited by A. I. Figus and L. Simon. (Pp. 257. Illustrated. \$15.) Hungarian Academy of Sciences: Budapest. 1977.

This book is based on a series of lectures given at a symposium on gastric precanceroses given in Hungary in 1973. The contributors come from 10 different countries, mostly Hungary and other Central and East European states. The style of English as well as the unfamiliar nomenclature make reading and understanding a real struggle. The term 'precanceroses' is itself discouraging, but, published four years after the meeting, I can find little in this book that is new or instructive. The editors undertook a formidable task when they tried to integrate the contributions of such a very diverse body of authors and the result is a book which makes no significant addition to the literature of gastric precancer.

B. C. MORSON

Gastrointestinal Angiography By Stewart R. Reuter and Helen C. Redman. Second edition (Pp. 390. Illustrated, £15.) W. B. Saunders: Philadelphia, London, Toronto. 1977.

This is the second edition of a volume in the series *Monographs in Clinical Radiology*. In the preface the authors point out that since the first edition, which was published in 1972, there has been an increase in the scope and accuracy of non-invasive diagnostic imaging techniques which has helped to crystallise the proper value of arteriography in the diagnosis of intra-abdominal disease. The first two chapters deal with catheterisation equipment and technique, and vascular anatomy. Subsequent chapters consider the abnormalities found in vascular disease, tumours, trauma, gastrointestinal bleeding, inflammatory disease, and cirrhosis. Short chapters follow on x-ray equipment and the use of drugs in angiography.

The text is readable and authoritative and the illustrations are profuse and of high quality. The authors have clearly drawn upon a vast personal experience and there are comprehensive references. An occasional fault of such a monograph is the desire of the authors to leave no stone unturned, so when one reads 'reports of the use of angiography in hepatitis are few' one can only feel that this is perhaps fortunate. Also the simple

omission of a hyphen produces not only such words as 'pharmacoangiography' and 'postsinusoidal' but also such indelicacies as 'prepinephrine' and 'posttolazoline'. However, these criticisms are irrelevant in relation to the value of this book as a comprehensive atlas and reference work. It maintains the high standard set by the first edition and can be recommended to all departments where angiography is performed, where it will surely prove useful even to the experienced angiographer and will certainly serve as a mentor and spur to the occasional operator.

B. M. THOMAS

Chenodeoxycholic Acid and Gallstone Dissolution Edited by A. F. Hofmann. (Pp. 172. £9.50.) University Park Press: Baltimore; MTP Press: Lancaster. 1977.

This comprehensive list, citing articles, monographs, and abstracts, on the subject has been compiled by A. F. Hofmann and includes some references in 1977. He has also provided an extensive subject and author index.

Books received

Salmonella: the Food Poisoner A report by a study group of the British Association for the Advancement of Science 1975-1977. (Pp. 51. No figures. £1.00 post free from Press Office, BAAS, 23 Savile Row, London.) 1978.

Color Atlas of Oral Medicine By William R. Tyldesley. (Pp. 111. Illustrated. £10.00.) Wolfe Medical Publications: London. 1978.