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 A less opulent printing of a volume that will be out of date in two years would have reduced its price and widened its ownership, and perhaps it is a pity that Churchill no longer publish these symposia.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.