

become the standard text for trainees and trainers alike. Indeed a short examination on this book might prove a useful way of selecting suitable candidates for training in endoscopy before they start. The volume is well illustrated and covers the well-established subjects of endoscopy clearly, with an admirable chapter on screening for cancer in Japan. The more speculative subjects, such as duodenitis and the place of ERCP in research, are understandably less crisp, but show a laudable attempt to lean against a frontier or two. The subject of endoscopic dilatation and intubation of oesophageal strictures is rather scantily dealt with, which will disappoint several beginners in the field.

The book can be warmly recommended for all hospital libraries, for clinical gastroenterologists as a basic text, and for serious students of gastrointestinal endoscopy.

C. N. MALLINSON

**Workshop on Ursodeoxycholic Acid** Edited by R. H. Dowling, A. F. Hofmann, and L. Barbara. (pp. 88. Illustrated. Price not quoted.) MTP Press, Lancaster, 1978.

This small book is an almost verbatim report of the first international workshop on ursodeoxycholic acid, held in the lavish surroundings of Cortina d'Ampezzo during the fourth International Bile Salt Meeting, in March 1978. The workshop comprised a series of informal presentations and subsequent discussion on various aspects of ursodeoxycholic acid therapy, with co-ordination and continuity provided by the joint chairmanship of Professors Dowling, Hofmann, and Barbara, who also edited the book. The subjects covered include bioavailability and pharmacokinetics, mode of action, therapeutic efficiency in gallstone dissolution, side-effects, and, of course, comparisons with chenodeoxycholic acid. The book is well produced, the English readable, and the text, illustrated with figures taken from the slides shown at the meeting, is also complete with four pages of references. More international bile salt meetings have already taken place with much time and effort devoted to ursodeoxycholic acid; nonetheless, the essence of the preliminary material presented here remains accurate and topical. Thus publication is obviously of prime interest to those engaged in bile acid research, though

by now much of this early data has been published in definitive papers. However, it is also of value for the critical discussion concerning the methods and concepts involved in human bile acid studies, which makes it worthy of at least one reading, as well by those non-specialists who may treat patients with gallstone dissolution agents.

A. REUBEN

**Liver and Drugs** Edited by F. Orlandi and A. M. Jezequel. (pp. 267. Illustrated. £10.80). Academic Press: London, 1972.

This is an interesting collection of reviews on many aspects of the important field of the action of drugs on the morphology and function of the liver. Every chapter is clearly written and the histological pictures are of high quality. The authors are international, from several European countries and the United States; the editors are from Ancona.

Unfortunately, the book was published in 1972 and therefore the references and much of the data are now out of date. But if there isn't a copy already on the shelves, then there is much in it to excite those interested in the pharmacology of drugs taken up by the liver. Eleven pounds could be worse spent.

R. P. H. THOMPSON

#### Books Received

**Probleme der Erythrozytopoese, Granulozytopoese und des Malignen Melanoms** Edited by G. W. Lohr, H. Arnold, R. Engelhardt, W. Möbius, G. Mahr, F. Schmalzl, and C. Sauter. (Pp. 457. Illustrated. \$53.90). Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1978.