

The Esophagus: Reflux and Primary Motor Disorders By R D Henderson. (Pp. 279. Illustrated. \$46.75.) Williams & Wilkins: Baltimore/London. 1981.

No-one finds oesophageal motor disorders readily comprehensible, their classification straightforward, their investigations easy, or their management simple. Fortunately, the majority are uncommon, save for reflux oesophagitis, which presents problems all of its own. There is a clear place for a book discussing this group of disorders, and the necessity for it and its success are indicated by this second edition appearing just five years after the first. It might be surprising that such a book has come from the pen of a surgeon, but Dr Henderson has made a detailed study of oesophageal disorders in Toronto for many years. The book does not conceal its surgical origins and the author freely uses his personal experience, sometimes studied and measured, but at others merely an indication of his own clinical impressions.

There are the obligatory chapters on anatomy and normal function, and an introduction to motor abnormalities. Symptoms are well discussed with illustrative case histories, followed by investigative procedures. Description of manometric techniques is irritatingly divided between two chapters, and the lack of comment about current views on 'compliance' and recording fidelity is a serious omission. Intraluminal pH

measurements are mentioned only briefly. Dr Henderson favours gum-elastic bougienage for strictures and does not mention wire-guided dilators, currently popular in Britain.

Almost a fifth of the book is devoted to the surgery of hiatal hernia and gastro-oesophageal reflux, though the subsequent lucid chapters describing the other motor disorders fairly balance medical and surgical attitudes. Of the 910 references (some of them duplicated, of course) only 16 were from *Gut*. Is our journal so deficient in oesophageal wisdom?

This book has a valuable place in any gastroenterology unit in Britain, a country where oesophageal motility is studied with remarkable infrequency.

JOHN R BENNETT

Colorectal Cancer Edited by K Welvaart, L H Blumgart, and J Kreuning. (Pp. 290. Illustrated. 110 guilders.) Martinus Nijhoff: The Hague, Netherlands. 1980.

This book contains lectures given at the Boerhaave International Symposium on colorectal cancer held in Leiden in 1979. It contains 30 chapters from 27 authors covering many different aspects from epidemiology to the management of pain in colorectal cancer. In general, the chapters contain many useful refer-

ences and illustrations, and the tables are helpful.

The work is divided into sections dealing with general aspects (epidemiology, aetiology, staging, and pathology), diagnostic procedures (dealing exclusively with screening), individuals at risk, adenomas of the colon, and treatment. There is some overlap—for example, environmental factors in aetiology are covered in two chapters—but this is, in fact, an advantage, as a slightly different approach is taken and more references result. Certain topics are included which are given less emphasis in some other works—for example, prognostic factors in staging, treatment of disseminated and recurrent disease, and follow-up. With a work of this kind it is not possible to deal with all aspects of the subject, but I would have welcomed more attention to radiology, adjuvant chemotherapy, and preoperative criteria for selection of treatment and a fuller discussion of risk factors (there is little on ulcerative colitis) and radiotherapy would have been useful. Nevertheless, the field is covered in breadth and the personal contributions of many well-known individuals are most valuable.

This book will be very useful to all those working in the field of colorectal cancer, as it gives an overall perspective while at the same time being informative in detail.

R J NICHOLLS