
The title may mislead: this is not a textbook but a series of reviews by authors from several countries, describing areas of growth in liver research and clinical practice as well as research techniques. The book is Volume 2 of a series entitled Developments in Gastroenterology. There is an emphasis on morphology, but a concise chapter on physiology and biochemistry is included. Clinical hepatology is represented by brief, up-to-date summaries of important diseases and causal agents, a chapter on trends in hepatic surgery, and a detailed discussion of the anatomical basis for partial hepatectomy. Not all readers will approve of the relegation of cholangiography to a minor place in the investigation of the jaundiced patient, in a chapter on radiology largely devoted to CT scanning. The section on research techniques will probably prove the most useful. There are excellent descriptions, well illustrated, of transmission and scanning electronmicroscopy of the liver, freeze-fracture and liver-cell culture. The use of scanning electronmicroscopy in the investigation of the microcirculation is illustrated with special reference to the peribiliary plexus. A section on stereology includes very helpful tables giving quantitative data for different cells and organelles in various species. In the chapter on electronmicroscopy in human liver pathology, there is disappointingly little discussion on non-A, non-B hepatitis, but this is compensated for by several recent references.

This book should prove particularly helpful to those embarking on hepatological research using unfamiliar techniques, and will be a useful addition to medical libraries.

P J SCHEUER

Books received


News

BSG Research Award 1982

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Awards Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the award for 1982. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less (on 31 December 1982) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring Meeting in 1983. Applications (six copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ, by 1 December 1982.

Bayliss and Starling Society

The next meeting of this society will be held in Liverpool, 17–18 December 1982. There will be a symposium on 'The mode of action of regulatory peptides'. For further details contact G J Dockray, Physiological Laboratory, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.