Books

Colonoscopy: Techniques Clinical Practice and Colour Atlas Edited by Richard H Hunt and Jerome D Waye. (Pp. 412. Illustrated. £30.) Chapman and Hall: London. 1981.

The authors of *Colonoscopy* are two distinguished colonoscopists from Britain and the United States. They have invited a number of contributors to write on specific topics and have combined them in a volume giving details of technique, the background to colonoscopy, its many applications, and, finally, an atlas of appearances.

The invited contributors are well known in their field and are multi-national. Despite this, the standard of English remains very high throughout the text. As with all multi-author books, the standard of contribution is variable; starting weakly with a poor account of the history of colonoscopy, the book very swiftly improves. To my surprise, one of the more impressive chapters was on the unlikely topic of instrumentation and disinfection; it was clearly written and included details on instrument design which has enabled the colonoscope to be used more efficiently. For example, there is the design of the coils in the shaft whereby a clockwise turn tightens the coil and stiffens the instrument, thus making insertion easier.

The central chapters of the book are those of technique. Richard Hunt goes into great detail on colonoscopy with fluoroscopy and Gerry Wayetakes on colonoscopy without fluoroscopy. There is surprisingly little overlap and the detail given in these chapters is very valuable for any learning colonoscopists. The excellence of these chapters, however, accentuates what I consider to be a weakness in the chapter on therapeutic colonoscopy;

here, such details are not given, the chapter being much more general in its outlook. Other chapters include intraoperative colonoscopy, care of the patient and preparation, radiology, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and the hazards of colonoscopy.

Part two then deals with specific items of colonoscopic clinical practice—namely, rectal bleeding, emergency colonoscopy, the polyp problem, colon cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, diverticular disease and strictures, and paediatric colonoscopy. At the end there is a colour atlas of colonoscopy which consists of 188 plates chiefly of colonoscopic appearances interspersed with some histological photographs. The quality of this section is remarkable. A generous donation was made by the Olympus Corporation in order to keep down the cost of the book; otherwise, with so many excellent photographs, it would have been much more expensive. A great variety of lesions is shown. Each photograph has a very brief caption, explicit, but giving no description or features, which is a slight disappointment with so many high quality prints and such remarkable lesions.

The overall high standard and wealth of detail included in this book make it a most valuable contribution to this subject. It combines theory with practice in a way which makes for easy reading and, hopefully, easier learning! The criticisms I have made above do not lessen the value of this book, which is for any endoscopist planning to undertake a colonoscopy and should therefore find its place in endoscopy units throughout the world. I think it is very likely that this will become the reference book for colonoscopy for several years to come.

D G COLIN-JONES

News

Basic Science in Gastroenterology Symposium

This symposium on 'Adaptation', organised on behalf of Glaxo Group Research Ltd and The Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, by J M Polak, S R Bloom, N A Wright, and M J Daly, will take place in London on 23 March 1982. Details from Dr M J Daly, Medical Division, Glaxo Group Research Ltd, Ware, Herts, SG12 0OJ (Tel: 0920 3232).

Fourth International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Hormones

This symposium will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, 20–23 June 1982. The conference will be of workshop type with a limited number of participants. For information contact: 4th GI Hormone Symposium 1982, c/o RESO Congress Service, S-105 24 Stockholm, Sweden, telephone (46 8) 14 49 10.