

training, since the techniques described are so variable in quality and quantity. It is probably best read by general surgeons or physicians with an interest in one particular aspect of cancer. An excellent book for the departmental library, it is far too heavy (in weight) for casual reading on the bus or train.

H F HOPE-STONE

Digestive system physiology By Paul A Sanford. (Pp. 150; illustrated; paperback, £5.25.) London: Edward Arnold, 1982.

The concept of linking a pair of books for preclinical medical students, one explaining the basic physiology of the system, the other a clinical text describing the diseases by focusing on the disorders of function, is appealing. The pair for the alimentary tract are *Digestive system physiology* by Paul Sanford and *Disorders of the digestive system* by Michael Hobsley.

It is very difficult now for any single author to deal with the whole of the digestive system physiology satisfactorily in a mere 150 pages. The choice of the core material becomes critical and the success of such books rests to a large extent on the balance of the actual material reviewed. Paul Sanford's allotment of his limited space is idiosyncratic and, as he says in his introduction, could be irritating to some. A number of concepts are dealt with cursorily and are occasionally scattered across the text (namely, the absorption of B₁₂ is mentioned in the gastric secretion section but hardly in the intestinal absorption chapters), some are ignored (intestinal microclimate pH affecting absorption by non-ionic diffusion), but others are given huge amounts of space for a preclinical text (nearly nine pages on fibre, microflora, and gas). The effects of starvation on hexose transport across rat small intestine are discussed in detail but not the effects of starvation on intestinal function in man. In relation to techniques the classic everted sac of small intestine is lovingly illustrated but the equally classic short-circuit current technique using isolated sheets of epithelia is ignored, even though it has added enormously to our understanding of the mechanisms of absorption and secretion. The line diagrams are usually adequate but the choice of electronmicrographs and sections – rat liver cells and a cat villus – strange for medical students. The index of the book is extremely basic. The strengths of the text are in its fresh approach and the obvious interest and enthusiasm of the author for his subject which is clearly revealed by the style of writing. The book may well fire the imagination of some to enquire deeper (each chapter ends with a specially selected

bibliography) but for others its occasional superficiality and imbalances will cause frustration.

R J LEVIN

News

EORTC Cancer Symposium

This symposium on the treatment of advanced gastrointestinal cancer, organised by the European Organisation for Research on Treatment of Cancer, will be held in Padova, Italy, 23–24 June 1983. For further information and registration, contact Ms D Eeckhoudt, Executive Secretary, EORTC Data Center, 1 rue Héger-Bordet, 1000 Brussels, Belgium (phone: (2) 539.30.20. Telex: 22773).

Hemochromatosis Research Foundation, Inc.

A Hemochromatosis Research Foundation has been established in the United States. Details may be obtained from Dr Margaret Krikkes, 164 Colonial Avenue, Albany, NY, 12208, USA.

9th International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility

This symposium will be held from 12–16 September 1983, in Aix-en-Provence. Papers are invited on any topics relating to the nature, function, and control of gastrointestinal movements in health and disease. The abstracts for presentation will be selected by the International Steering Committee. Abstracts must be type written, double spaced, on 21×29.5 cm or 8.5×11 inch bond paper (one page only) and sent by 15 February 1983 to Dr C Roman, Department of Physiology and Neurophysiology, Faculty of Sciences, 13397 Marseille, Cedex 13, France.

Correction

What length of terminal ileum is required for bile salt absorption? G Cooper, B J Abel, A G Hutchison, and C Mackay (October 1982 issue, *Gut* 23, A892).

The penultimate sentence in the second paragraph should read: 'The mean faecal bile salt concentration was 56.00 μmol/g and the output 1.01 mmol/day in comparison with control values of 22.38 μmol/g and 0.16 mmol/day respectively; both these differences were statistically significant (p<0.025 and p<0.001).