the quality of some of the chapters is quite outstanding. The section on ultrasonic puncture techniques will prove particularly useful for those interested in this aspect of ultrasound. The author describes the various methods and applications of the technique in detailed manner that will prove a valuable practical guide for anyone wishing to acquire expertise in this rapidly developing branch of the subject.

Overall the book presents a good range of topics, some new, some already established but looked at in a refreshing new light. The book is a 'must' for anyone interested in ultrasound.

D J ALLISON

The radiological examination of the colon By R E Miller and J Skucas. (Pp. 360; illustrated; US \$128.00.) The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers BV. 1983.

The previous work from these two authors was on radiographic contrast agents. In this book their aim is to provide a comprehensive guide to the current state of the art in colonic radiology. The book contains 360 pages and 302 illustrations, all of high quality double contrast studies.

The text is divided into three parts. The first section is on technique, and as would be expected from the authors the chapter on the double contrast barium enema is superb, with a useful supporting discussion on its relationship to colonoscopy. In the second part there is a detailed account of the normal anatomy of the colon, with the third and largest section covering lesions. These are divided into the colitides, diverticular disease, tumours, and miscellaneous. An introduction and review of the clinical considerations in each chapter provide a detailed and pertinent background to the radiological accounts, which are authoritative and supported by extensive and up to date references. I found the text easy to read and full of useful practical points which stem from the authors' extensive experience. Points of actual image interpretation tended to be brought out more in the legends than in the text, which is a matter of choice rather than criticism.

I enjoyed reading this book, and regard it as a leading exposé on the subject, to be recommended highly.

C I BARTRAM

Pretest manual of clinical gastroenterology By G L Bongiovanni. (Pp. 581; illustrated; £11.95.) New York: McGraw Hill. 1983.

Yet another potted gastroenterology! This volume written by staff at the Massachusetts General

Hospital, Boston, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, New York, is aimed at medical students, junior hospital staff, and general practitioners. It is too large and too thick to be considered as a pocket book. It covers both gastroenterology and disorders of the liver and biliary tract, and has a chapter on hyperalimentation. It is written as a series of numbered lists. Unlike many of its competitors it is a useful book to which to refer when actually dealing with a clinical problem. It does not replace larger reference texts, but the coverage of many common conditions (and some less common conditions such as Whipple's Disease and parasitic infections) is certainly comprehensive.

It suffers, like many American texts, from a neglect of some drugs in common use in Britain and other countries, and from undue caution about the use of intravenous lipid in parenteral nutrition. Jaundice is still classified as haemolytic, obstructive (or cholestatic), or hepatocellular, but the balance is redressed somewhat as 'unconjugated hyperbilirubinaemia' is used for subsequent diagnostic classification, and most parenchymal causes of obstruction are included in the sections on hepatitis and cirrhosis. The index is poor which makes it difficult to find some information contained in the text. As one might expect most of the references are to American publications. The book has a large spiral binding but this does not ensure that the pages lie flat.

I suspect that this book will prove popular in the United States. At £11.95, it may not do too well in Britain. But it contains much of value and is worth considering as a quick reference source (for causes of drug jaundice, pancreatitis, protein losing enteropathy etc, and for lists of the complications of, and contraindications to various types of therapy!). A reasonable buy.

NEIL MCINTYRE

Gastrointestinal problems in the infant By J Gryboski and W A Walker. (Pp. 765; illustrated; £60.) Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1983.

This second edition of a well known paediatric gastroenterology text is a welcome addition to the rapidly expanding literature of this subject. This book is truly encyclopaedic in its approach. It is at its most useful in its discussion of rare entities. The statement that a particular disorder is rare in this age group is often reiterated throughout the book. This makes the text an invaluable source of reference to the specialist but may limit its appeal to the more general reader. It is well and comprehensively referenced which is of particular value when