uncommon disorders are concerned. The text is particularly strong in the discussion of liver disease and congenital gut anomalies. The illustrations are in general of a high order and the radiographs are especially useful. Histological figures are not so clear in some cases. The authors do stray well beyond infancy in many cases and this book could easily be extended as a text of gastrointestinal problems of childhood as a whole and not just of infancy. In coverage of more common entities the text is sometimes less satisfactory, and the views expressed at some variance to established practice in Britain. For example, a table listing antimicrobial treatment for bacterial infections of the gastrointestinal might imply that antibiotics should always be given which is certainly not recommended here. No mention is made of a carrier state resulting from antibiotic therapy for salmonellosis. The statement that hydrogen breath test should now be the diagnostic tool for sugar malabsorption in infancy rather than testing for stool reducing substances with Clinitest tablets is impractical in most centres in Britain and may not indeed be true. It would be churlish, however, to be too critical of a text which is an important and valuable addition to the literature of paediatric gastroenterology, and the authors are to be commended on the obvious care and attention given to the preparation of this important text.

J A WALKER-SMITH

Traitement medical et chirurgical des maladies digestives By M Huguier and P Bernades. (Pp. 264; illustrated; price not stated.) Paris: Masson, 1982.

This volume is testimony to the wealth of clinical experience of its authors. Written entirely in French apart from its English index, it is well organised and is said to be 'exclusively devoted to diseases of the gastrointestinal system in the adult'.

It addresses itself to hepatology and gastroenterology and it is designed to enable 'the doctor to be familiar with the scope of surgical treatment (and the surgeon), as well as the results of medical treatment'.

It is a laudable joint effort, clearly written, and unpretentious. It makes no attempt to be exhaustive but contains a number of appropriate references, more of which come from the current British literature than are to be found in many current North American writings.

I was not shown the price but for those conversant with scientific French and interested in the subject, the book provides an interesting glimpse of current French clinical thinking.

H D RITCHIE

Surgery of the alimentary tract By Richard T Shackelford and George D Zuidema. (Pp. 702; illustrated; £64.50.) Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1983.

This volume (4) on the surgery of the alimentary tract is devoted to the pancreas, biliary tract, liver, and spleen. I found this to be an extremely attractive compilation, well-illustrated, providing sound but not excessive operative advice and detail. It was surprisingly up-to-date for such a large book consisting of 700 pages. It should be in every general surgical library and would be of value to all general surgeons who need specialised information on surgery of the pancreas and liver, both of which organs can provide serious and sometimes unexpected surgical challenges.

The editors are to be congratulated on the competence of their chosen authors and the speed with which they have put the text together. The contemporary nature of the work is shown by references to Cyclosporin A, pancreas transplantation, and some of the recent data on liver grafting.

R Y CALNE

News

Course in Gastroenterology, Oxford, 8-11 January 1984

This course is designed for consultants and registrars, including those who do not specialise in gastroenterology. It will consist of selected topics which are of current interest in relation to the normal functioning of the digestive system and its diseases. Further details from Dr D P Jewell, Gastroenterology Unit, The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU.

Research Session on Digestive Disease and Aging - DDW 1984

During DDW 1984 in New Orleans there will be an evening poster presentation-discussion session on 'Aging and digestive disease'. Approximately 8-10 abstracts will be chosen, selected from regular abstracts submitted to DDW. Those who think their abstracts might be suitable should write 'AGING' at the right hand corner of their regular submitted abstract. Further details: Dr P R Holt, GE Division, St Luke's Hospital, Amsterdam Ave at 114th St, New York, NY 10025, USA.