is emphasised and traced back to Morgagni in 1769.

Tucker and Schuster from Johns Hopkins accept that in the irritable bowel syndrome there is an abnormal motor response, and frequent psychopathology, but they give little help in management.

A review of inflammatory bowel disease from Mount Sinai (Janowitz and Sacher) is *ex cathedra* authoritative, and they start with the only major novelty in intestinal infection, *Campylobacter* enterocolitis and antibiotic-associated pseudomembranous colitis from *Clostridium difficile*. Last come the Mayo (Shorter and Tomasi) on gut immune mechanisms, with emphasis on defence against viruses bacteria parasites and antigens.

The reviews are sound, but the specialist gastroenterologist should be aware of most of these fields. Nevertheless, the general physician who buys this book annually will certainly become better orientated gastroenterologically.

J H BARON

Contemporary issues in clinical nutrition vol. I **Nutrition in gastrointestinal disease** Edited by Robert C Kurtz. (Pp. 146; £13.) New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1982.

Clinical nutrition found a natural ally in gastroenterology resulting in a new awareness among gastroenterologists of the importance of diet in the prevention, treatment, and complications of gut disease. Unfortunately, few of the 16 authors who have written the 10 short essays which make up this book are specialists in the field, with the result that it loses much of its potential impact. The editors have not sought to write a comprehensive treatise, having opted for chapters on fibre, gastrointestinal cancer, peptic ulcer, food allergy, inflammatory bowel disease, short gut syndrome, alcohol, and coeliac disease. Within these boundaries too much is devoted to theories concerning the dietary aetiology of gastrointestinal cancer which, as Goldin and colleagues rightly conclude in relation to colon cancer, is mostly speculation. It would have been better to have included an update on more practical topics such as the assessment of nutritional status and the management of nutritional problems. One or two authors give some original data which serves to liven up the book considerably, although after describing in detail the rationale for studies on the chemoprevention of colorectal cancer using vitamin C, Evers and DeCosse have disappointingly to report that it is of no benefit in the management of patients with familial polyposis. However, they say their results 'hinted at a suppression of DNA synthesis . . . in the crypts by ascorbic acid'. The

chapter on peptic ulcer will cause many people to raise their eyebrows, containing as it does complicated regimes for the dietary management of this condition. But to balance this there are good chapters on alcohol, one on food allergy, and the book is well referenced and up to date overall. It is nevertheless probably pitched more at the student and non-specialist and is unlikely to provide much stimulus to those actively involved in the field.

J H CUMMINGS

News

The Sir Alan Parks Fellowship for Research in Colonic and Rectal Surgery

The many friends of Sir Alan Parks are anxious to establish a research fellowship which will commemorate and continue the remarkable advances that he made in surgical research and practice. Enquiries should be addressed to Mr Ian Todd, St Mark's Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PS, and contributions should be made payable to 'The St Mark's Research Foundation' which is a registered charity.

McMaster University grant

An Intestinal Disease Research Unit will be established in Hamilton at McMaster's Faculty of Health Sciences with the support of a \$3.2 million grant from the Canadian Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis, a voluntary non-profit foundation which promotes medical research into ileitis (Crohn's disease) and ulcerative colitis, two chronic inflammatory bowel diseases for which there are no known causes or cures. Richard Hunt, Professor of medicine, will direct the Unit.

Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust

The 12th Annual Meeting of the European Working Group for Cystic Fibrosis will be held in Athens, Greece from 3-4 October 1983. This meeting will be preceded by the annual meeting of the International Cystic Fibrosis (Mucoviscidosis) Association at the same venue from 1-2 October 1983. Details from: Ron Tucker, Executive Director, Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, Alexandra House, 5 Blyth Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3RS.