

matory, neoplastic, and vascular disease. Other chapters cover disturbance of motility, congenital anomalies, ileus, adhesions, and various forms of obstruction. Finally, there are chapters devoted to the procedures used with children and a discussion of some of the causes of error and failure.

The authors make it very clear that they regard their technique as superior and more informative than the simpler follow-through barium meal normally used. Most radiologists who have tried the method would probably agree and yet there cannot be a great many radiologists who have completely changed over to the enteroclysis technique, although some reserve this for the particularly difficult case where the simpler procedure has failed to provide an answer and where the clinical suspicion of small bowel pathology is very strong. The authors make out a very strong case, however, and the hundred of high quality illustrations of a wide range of small intestinal pathology provide strong argument in their support.

This is a quite splendid atlas which will be indispensable to any radiologist wishing to explore this technique. It should be available to all trainees in radiology who are likely to be encouraged by the superb illustrations of a wide range of small bowel pathology to try out the method for themselves.

R S MURRAY

saline load test for gastric emptying, while there is no mention of any of the more modern tests using markers, isotopes, or the more physiological solid meals. There is a section on oesophageal dilatation with undue prominence given to the Hurst-Maloney dilators, which are passed 'blind', although there is also a section on the Eder-Puestow method and pneumatic dilatation. There are short chapters on upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, ERCP and colonoscopy, but by virtue of their length they are extremely limited. The majority of the chapters, however, deal with the more readily defined procedures, such as the insertion of a Sengstaken-Blakemore tube, oesophageal manometry, the Bernstein test, secretin test, small bowel biopsy, and there is a helpful section on abdominal paracentesis and peritoneoscopy. A number of therapeutic procedures, including endoscopic sclerosis of oesophageal varices, are also described.

There are other similar practical GI procedures books such as this, and there is no doubt that each GI unit should have such a book available on its shelves, so as to give the basic outline of these procedures to students, to new members of the team, and to nursing staff. It is relatively modestly priced, and I would certainly be glad to see it on the office shelf in my unit.

D G COLIN-JONES

**Manual of gastroenterologic procedures** Edited by Douglas A Drossman. (Pp. 203; illustrated; \$17.00.) New York: Raven Press, 1982.

This is meant to be a simple, practical book which should be available in every gastrointestinal unit. Its emphasis is upon brevity and upon the practical undertaking of the tests outlined. The format of the book, for example, includes a spring coil binding, so that the appropriate page can be left open on the bench, hopefully where the patient cannot see the investigator looking at it! The contributors are all associated with the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina, and the editor is Douglas Drossman. The procedures outlined are comprehensive, and include investigating children with GI disorders. Each chapter is structured around indications, contraindications, preparation and equipment, the procedure itself with its interpretation, and finally care of the patient, and complications. Each section is brief, but nonetheless a useful summary. In any book it must be difficult to achieve a balance between brevity and detail, between old tests and new. On the whole I think the balance achieved is good, but there are some odd features. For example, three pages are devoted to a

**Clinics in gastroenterology. Motility and its disturbances.** Vol. 11, No. 3. Edited by Alastair M Connell. (Pp. 249; illustrated; £11.75). London: Saunders, 1982.

Until a few years ago, when it was transformed by advances in the study of nerves, regulatory peptides, and ultradian rhythms, the study of gut motility was dominated by clinicians dedicated mainly to the study of smooth muscle function, in particular as exemplified in the oesophagus and colon and their associated sphincters. We owe much to this group of workers for providing the base on which recent advances can be assembled into a coherent scientific edifice. It is the same group who are largely responsible for this volume; the problem is that it reflects interests which no longer completely dominate this field. For example, there are three chapters on the oesophagus, but none on the stomach or biliary system. Two syndromes rate a chapter each, but one (diverticular disease) is, as conceded by the authors, dubiously a motility disturbance, while the other (irritable colon syndrome) is an expression of diagnostic despair by physicians rather than a pathophysiological entity. The book lacks a coherent account of relevant

anatomy and physiology; while it may be argued that this collection of essays is aimed at clinicians, it must also be remembered that it is basic science which describes the systems which are disordered by disease and, hence, the possibilities of therapy.

Although this volume embodies a scientific approach that is neither truly contemporary nor systematic, the disorders which are reviewed here are still with us, and there is much material here which will prove useful and stimulating for the clinician. As with other volumes in this series, the standard of production is high and the price is relatively low. With the proviso, that an understanding of the present state of the art will require additional reading, this collection of essays is recommended.

DAVID WINGATE

**Organizing and managing a gastroenterology department** By P C Tavares. (Pp. 135; illustrated; \$24.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Thomas, 1981.

This is a philosophically written little book covering certain aspects of the activities of an American gastrointestinal investigation unit, particularly details of its planning and housekeeping arrangements. The author admits that many of her potential readership might wish for fuller details of practical procedures, but has decided to give only sketchy details of procedures including some old fashioned ones, and not seriously tackling critical areas such as the cleaning and sterilisation of fibre-endoscopes. She has layout suggestions for possible units, comprehensive equipment check lists, and spirited sections reflecting her feelings about the professionalism now demanded of GI nurse assistants. The book should be useful to anyone setting up a GI unit but while it gives insight into the American way of doing things does not attempt to be a practical manual, which is a pity.

CHRISTOPHER B WILLIAMS and RUTH L DAVIES

**BIMR gastroenterology: vol 2 Small intestine** Edited by V S Chadwick and S Phillips. (Pp. 355; illustrated; £21.00.) London: Butterworth Scientific, 1982.

This is not a systematic book about the small intestine, it aims to deal with subjects in which there has been significant progress in the past decade. From this point of view the editors have chosen the topics well.

This book contains many things which cannot easily be found elsewhere. The biochemical anatomy of the enterocyte, the application of *in vitro* methods to the study of the small intestine, and the effect of nutritional deficiencies on the small

intestine are examples. Other chapters, while equally topical, are well reviewed in other places. Immune mechanisms in the small intestine, endocrine functions of the small intestine, motility of the small intestine are examples. It is not at all clear why the information on immune mechanisms of the small intestine is divided into two chapters, particularly when the first is very brief and the titles do not convey what is contained in each. I find it hard to justify a chapter on motility of the small intestine and another on motility disorders in small bowel diseases, with much overlap, particularly when there is also a chapter on surgical aspects of small bowel motility.

The level at which the book is written makes it suitable for the expert or near expert. The contributions are heavily referenced, I estimate about 1400 references in all, about a quarter of the pages being devoted to references. In some places this is taken to extremes, in one portion of seven lines of text I counted 60 references! Most of the chapters are not aimed at practising clinicians but there are exceptions. The chapter on alpha chain disease goes into great detail including clinical features, the chapter on graft *versus* host disease sets the clinical scene, and the chapter on vasculitis is particularly good in giving clinical examples and sound advice.

In general if you know the topic in which you are interested is included in this book you will find it well covered, unless you are looking for practical clinical advice.

M S LOSOWSKY

**Colour atlas of liver pathology** By R S Patrick. (Pp. 176; illustrated; £42.00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982.

This atlas, the first of a series of atlases each devoted to a particular system, sets a high standard. In it Professor Patrick gives a comprehensive review of the pathology of the liver. Beginning with a chapter on the normal liver, which includes the fetal and the ageing liver, the next 10 chapters each describe a particular pathological process. The atlas ends with a chapter devoted to changes brought about in other organs by liver disease. Viral hepatitis, chronic hepatitis, and non-viral infections and infestations, are each dealt with in a separate chapter. The chapter on tumour is both detailed and comprehensive. Throughout the atlas a uniformly high standard of photography and colour reproduction is maintained. The photographs of the gross pathology are particularly rewarding. Special staining techniques, including immune enzyme staining, are included where necessary. The value of