

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