

steroid treatment can be avoided by the use of Cyclosporin A. The aetiology of primary biliary atresia remains a mystery although a viral infection is the most favoured explanation of the initial defect.

The book is clearly written and well illustrated with authoritative data on the present state of our knowledge of this mysterious and distressing condition. It can be recommended for those interested in liver disease in children.

R Y CALNE

Experimental colon carcinogenesis Edited by H Antrup and G M Williams. (Pp. 309; illustrated; \$97.00) Boca Raton, Florida: CRC Press Inc, 1983. Laqueur (with cycasin) and Druckrey (with synthetic alkylhydrazines) were chiefly instrumental in producing the first reliable method of inducing intestinal tumours in laboratory rodents in the mid-1960s. The field of experimental large bowel carcinogenesis, hitherto largely fallow, was tilled thereafter by increasing numbers of workers eager to exploit the new model. Parallel to this development came data from epidemiologic, biochemical, and kinetic studies on diverse human populations defining specific areas that might usefully be examined in the relatively controlled conditions now available in the laboratory, and it is on this rodent model that most subsequent activity has converged. This book attempts to produce a survey of results to date, with the declared twin aims of providing an introduction to readers unfamiliar with the field and of serving as a source of new information for active researchers. A single chapter on epidemiology sets the scene and is followed by two very comprehensive sections dealing with the methods of producing experimental intestinal cancers and the biochemical, morphologic, and kinetic changes which accompany their induction. The largest section deals with factors which modify normal and neoplastic large bowel epithelium. There is inevitably a little overlap here, but the editors have guided their authors well so that this is minimised. Each chapter is comprehensively and accurately referenced. The book, which is well produced and laid out, succeeds admirably in its stated aims and is recommended to all those with an active research interest in large bowel cancer. Those new to the field would do well, however, to consider the cautionary note of Shamsuddin in chapter 3: 'useful . . . as they are, animal models have their limitations'. The relevance of much of the experimental work to human large bowel cancer remains to be established.

J B BRISTOL

Radiological atlas of gastrointestinal disease By D J Nolan (with contributions by Stuart Field and Anne P Hemmingway). (Pp. 313; illustrated; £39.50) Chichester: John Wiley, 1983.

This recent addition to the *Radiological atlas* series illustrates the entire field of barium examinations from oesophagus to rectum. There is a section on plain film appearance in the acute abdomen by Stuart Field and a final chapter by David Allison and Anne Hemmingway depicts gastrointestinal angiography and interventional procedures. Hepatic, biliary, and pancreatic disorders are treated only incidentally.

The text is concise and authoritative. Each chapter has three to six pages of comment followed by a comprehensive bibliography. The first chapter on radiological investigation, gives an admirable summary of modern techniques. As an atlas the book rates highly with over 500 illustrations that really show what is stated. Almost without exception the reproductions are of high quality and some are superb. The vascular studies in particular are clearly labelled with a key to anatomical recognition.

Essentially practical, this book will aid practising radiologists and gastroenterologists alike whether used for reference, as a source of help in interpreting difficult radiographs or as a basis of study for higher examinations. Double contrast techniques are rightly regarded as the norm for modern practice and the author shows that with skilful application the barium examination holds its own notwithstanding current advances in endoscopic procedure.

It is difficult to find fault with this book. A field that would profit by fuller treatment is the barium examination in the infant.

It has been a pleasure to read this atlas. It has a lot to offer anyone concerned with radiology of the gastrointestinal tract.

M J TURNER

The aging gut: pathophysiology, diagnosis and management Edited by E Clinton Texter Jr. (Pp. 198; illustrated; \$41.50.) New York: Masson, 1983. There is a gratifying increase in recognition of the importance of gastrointestinal diseases in the elderly. Gastroenterologists are now becoming aware of the fact that an increasing proportion of their patients are elderly, indeed in Britain more than 50% of beds in acute (not geriatric) wards are now occupied by individuals aged 65 or over. The publication of this book is therefore most timely. The editor (and major contributor) Professor E C Texter says that he looks upon the book as