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

summarising 'the state of the art in a particular limited area . . . to reflect both our knowledge as well as lack of knowledge' – these are wise words as there is a vast lack of knowledge about the aging gut. The first of the chapters looks appetising and interesting. Unfortunately the contents of the book are mostly deeply disappointing. A chapter on biliary disease in the aging patient carries no mention of ERCP, still less of endoscopic therapy for stones in the biliary tree. Another chapter opens with the sentence 'Gastrointestinal disorders in the elderly differ little in incidence and not at all in kind from gastrointestinal disorders in younger patients'. Either this statement is nonsense (which it is) or the whole book is pointless (which it is not). Most chapters contain almost no references after 1980, and much important work has taken place in the field in the past three years. There are, however, several excellent pieces including those on 'Intestinal absorption and malabsorption' (R R Holt) and 'Swallowing and pharyngoesophageal function' (Patel, Diner, Texter). The book is thus uneven in quality and I cannot recommend it to anyone except for the few specialists in the field of geriatric gastroenterology, and as a book to borrow from a large library if one needs background references to a particular area and interest. It is rather expensive for a paperback at US\$41.50 but I suppose that is partly the fault of the feeble pound.

O F W JAMES

Radiology in inflammatory bowel disease By C I Bartram. (Pp. 310; illustrated; £45.00.) New York: Marcel Dekker Inc, 1983.

This excellent book is written by one of the world's acknowledged authorities on the radiology of inflammatory bowel disease and contains over 400 high quality illustrations. The majority of the book is devoted to the two commonest inflammatory diseases of the bowel that concern the radiologist, namely ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. There are chapters covering the radiology of these two conditions, giving very useful correlations with the gross macroscopic pathological appearances, and two chapters describe the radiological features of their complications.

There are excellent chapters covering diagnostic problems, the differential diagnosis and surgery of inflammatory bowel disease, and the problems of inflammatory bowel disease in children neonates.

The book is very well written; accurate and readable throughout. The major criticism that can be levelled at it is the fact that it is very frustrating to have to constantly turn back and forth between the text and the illustrations which are geographically

separated. This criticism, however, should not deter anyone interested in gastrointestinal disease and radiology from adding an otherwise superb book to their collection.

Radiology in inflammatory bowel disease is essential reading for all trainee radiologists and deserves a place on the shelves of all departmental libraries.

D J ALLISON

News

British Society of Gastroenterology

The 1984 Annual Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held at the University of Liverpool on 12–14 September 1984, under the presidency of Dr R B McConnell. The first day was devoted to a teaching session on Crohn's disease, and to meetings of specialist sub-groups of the Society. Scientific sessions occupied the remaining two days, including not only short papers and poster communications, but also two 'State of the art' lectures and a symposium on colonic endoscopy. The Sir Arthur Hurst Lecture was given by Professor L A Turnberg and the Endoscopy Foundation Lecture by Dr J Greenan. The social programme included a reception in the Town Hall, and the Annual Dinner of the Society was held in the Adelphi Hotel.

BSG Research Award 1984

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Awards Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the Award for 1984. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less (on 31 December 1984) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must be performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting in 1985. Applications (six copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ, by 1 December 1984.