

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.