

**Practical paediatric gastroenterology** By J A Walker-Smith, J R Hamilton, and W A Walker. (Pp. 400; illustrated; £27.00.) London: Butterworth, 1983.

This book, the latest in the *Postgraduate Paediatric Series* published by Butterworths, has the stated intention of providing a very practical yet up to date approach to paediatric gastroenterology that would be appropriate for trainee paediatricians, established paediatricians, and general practitioners. The authors, from England (ex-Australia), Canada, and the USA have aimed 'to bridge the North Atlantic by producing a text that would take account of practices in our three countries in this rapidly advancing subject where clinical practice may vary from centre to centre'. They have succeeded admirably in their aim in a well produced volume of 400 pages and moderate price.

In the small but growing world of paediatric gastroenterology, it is likely that, not only will the authors be friends of each other, but (as in this case) they will be friends of the reviewer as well. One can therefore look for evidence of personal hobby horses – there are a few, and none the worse for that, in a generally well balanced text. One can have the fun of 'looking for the join' – spotting which chapters were written by which authors – not a difficult task when the special interests of each author are well known. But rather easy too for the general reader to detect which chapters emanated from the North American continent – why is it that, in general, authors from North America refer to the European literature so parsimoniously?

The text is divided into two parts. An excellent section on gastrointestinal symptoms and signs in childhood is followed by a categorised account of specific disease entities. Each chapter has a short list of important references. Common disorders are given their proper place, but the unusual are covered briefly too, thus making the book a very useful addition to the library of the practising paediatric gastroenterologist. The brief chapter on diarrhoeal disease in developing communities by Michael Rowland (MRC, The Gambia) serves to remind us, in Jon Rohde's memorable phrase, of the need to 'take science where the diarrhoea is'.

ALEXANDER S NCNEISH

## News

### **2nd International Symposium on Inflammatory Bowel Diseases**

This symposium will take place in Jerusalem from 8–11 September 1985. Further details from Dr Daniel Rachmilewitz, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv, Israel.

### **International Symposium on Experimental and New Therapeutic Approaches to Ulcer Disease**

This symposium will be held in Pécs, Hungary, from 6–7 August 1984 after the 9th International Congress of Pharmacology (London, UK). Further information may be obtained from Dr Gy Mózsik, 1st Department of Medicine, University Medical School, H-7643, Pécs, Hungary.

### **American Pancreatic Association**

The annual joint scientific meeting of the American Pancreatic Association and the National Pancreatic Cancer Project will be held on 8 and 9 November 1984, at the Ambassador West Hotel, in Chicago, Illinois. Further information from Dr Vay Liang W Go, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota 55905, USA.

### **Leeds Course in Clinical Nutrition 1984**

This course will be held at the University of Leeds (Department of Medicine), St James's University Hospital, from 4–6 September 1984. Further details from Mr T D Bilham, Director of Continuing Education, Dept of Adult & Continuing Education, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

### **Indian Society of Gastroenterology**

The Silver Jubilee annual conference will be held in Bombay from 2–5 November 1984. Further information may be obtained from Dr T E Udwadia, Organising Secretary, XXV Annual Conf. ISG, Cook's Building, Dr D N Road, Bombay 400 001, India.

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## Correction

The patients referred to in the letter by Zauli *et al* (*Gut* 1984; **25**: 215) suffered from **Crohn's disease** – not coeliac disease as stated.