

example, in a section of great practical value on oesophageal obstruction.

The editors' philosophy provide a framework for the book, and although there are 20 contributors, only six of the 22 (unnumbered) chapters does not have one of the editors as co-author.

The only omissions of note were the absence from the sensible chapter on oesophageal causes of chest pain of the recent useful work from Cardiff, and the relationship of asthma to gastro-oesophageal reflux was not discussed. Some practical procedures – the use of Celestin's dilators and balloon dilators for example – are mentioned only briefly, the authors wisely confining themselves to techniques of which they have personal experience. Radiological illustrations are good, even though the book is not printed on glossy paper.

The presentation is marred by the American obsession with acronyms, the space saved by their use being squandered on terms like 'state-of-the-art equipment' and other circumlocutions. None of this makes the book any less essential for the gastroenterology library as the best currently available information on oesophageal disorders.

J R BENNETT

**Clinical radiology of the liver** (2 parts) Edited by Hans Herlinger, Anders Lunderquist, and Sidney Wallace. (Pp. 1224; illustrated; SFr780.) New York: Marcel Dekker Inc, 1983.

This two part text constitutes volume 1 of a new *Diagnostic Radiology Series*. There are 32 contributors, 17 from North America, and the emphasis is hepatic rather than biliary, the pancreas being largely avoided.

Part A deals with anatomy and physiology and describes in detail the range of diagnostic and interventional techniques now available. In part B the radiological investigation and management of specific clinical situations and pathological lesions are described. This format inevitably results in considerable overlap but the editors have encouraged this to present differences of opinion. It does, however, mean that an extensive search may be required to find all the text and illustrations related to a particular lesion. Throughout both parts there is a strong emphasis on angiography in all its aspects, reflecting the interest and experience of the three editors and it will be interesting to see how the impact of digital subtraction techniques affects subsequent editions. The overall quality of illustration is extremely high, these being numerous, large, and clearly annotated. A minor irritation is that serial figures of a particular case may have the

main legend under the final figure several pages beyond the initial figure and associated text. In the reviewer's copy one figure referred to in the text on hepatic embolisation was missing.

Although the intentional emphasis is on hepatic rather than biliary radiology, the chapter on direct cholangiography is disappointing and several of the illustrations chosen, even of common lesions, fall below the overall high standard. Stone extraction techniques and endoscopic sphincterotomy are only briefly mentioned but there is a whole chapter on choledochoscopy *via* the T-tube tract.

This is undoubtedly a major work and must be the most detailed and extensively illustrated text available on diagnostic and interventional radiology of the liver. It is an essential acquisition for any department with a specialist interest in gastroenterology and liver disease, especially one which performs regular angiography.

D J LINTOTT

**Liver in metabolic diseases** Edited by L Bianchi, W Gerok, L Landmann, K Sickinger, and G A Stalder. (Pp. 447; price not stated) Lancaster: MTB Press, 1983.

There is now a plethora of books about the liver and liver disease; thus potential authors/editors and publishers must ask themselves at least two questions. First, is there a need for the book which we propose to produce? Second, who are we hoping will buy this book. To these the reviewer must add 'Is this book any good?'

*The liver in metabolic diseases* contains the proceedings of the 35th Falk Symposium held in 1982. There are 42 chapters ranging from 'Fructose 2, 6-biphosphate: a third messenger in endocrine regulation in liver metabolism?' to up to date reviews of Wilson's disease and glycogen storage disease. Although the topics are heterogenous, held together only by a tenuous common thread of 'metabolic disease', they have been very well chosen by the editors. Many of the topics are very hard to find in standard texts, many represent lacunae, at least in this reviewer's knowledge and they are for the most part well written and up to date. I would particularly commend chapters on collagen metabolism (Hahn), mechanisms of liver metastases (Burger and Madnick) and serum albumin in liver disease (Rothschild *et al*).

Thus to answer the questions for the editors of this book I would say 'yes, this fills in many nooks and crannies left vacant by large standard texts'. Both clinicians interested in liver disease should certainly browse extensively in the book as soon as