importance to those who are developing treatment programmes. The volume, though heavily orientated to the American scene, nevertheless, has much of relevance to what is happening in this country or may happen in the future. With the quality of the individual contributions and the very wide scope of the issues covered, it is to be strongly recommended.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Colorectal surgery By Sir Edward Hughes, Alan M Cuthbertson, and Mark K Killingback. (Pp. 431; illustrated; price not stated.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1983.

This is a book for general surgeons with a colorectal interest. It is particularly suited to the needs of the occasional operator in this specialised field, or for the postgraduate seeking a higher degree in surgery. The authors clearly outline in the preface that this is the audience that they are addressing, and have succeeded in designing a treatise that admirably fulfils this aim. They also claim that some general practitioners might find some sections useful, but this is more doubtful.

The book is produced in bold typescript, with excellent main headings and subtitles. The style is terse, and almost laconic at times. The line drawings are simple and lucid. At all times the statements are clear, and there is little attempt to expand or defend the opinions expressed. In the main, these are conventional and new techniques are usually appraised as 'unproven'. One has a clear impression of careful, conservative craftsmen who would eschew the novel approach until it had been shown to be useful. This is a book that reflects orientation towards a type of practise in which novelty would be risky.

The book has 34 chapters, and covers the entire field of colorectal practise. There are some areas of controversy. The classification of anal fistulas does not recognise the alternative terminology of intersphincteric, transsphincteric, suprasphincteric or supra-levator types: this is a serious omission in this area. The haemorrhoid 'ligator' is the original Barron instrument which has now been replaced by cheaper and better models. The management of colocutaneous (and other) fistulas by conservative methods rather than surgical intervention is hardly alluded to. Adjuvant therapy by hyperalimentation, radiotherapy or cytotoxic drugs is only briefly mentioned at various times in the text: stoma care is not given separate consideration; but these are all areas in which guidance is greatly needed by the practitioners at whom the book is directed. Patient assessment and follow up by new radiological and immunological methods is hardly mentioned at all

(although the authors may yet be proven correct in not giving them much prominence).

This book can be regarded as successful for achieving its stated purpose. It is easily read, and well produced. It will certainly go through many further editions. Undoubtedly, once the book is established with its chosen audience, these future editions will be more adventurous in their approach.

C V MANN

Progress in gastroenterology Edited by G B J Glass and P Sherlock. (Pp. 597; illustrated; \$85.) New York: Grune and Stratton, 1983.

With the first edition of this book in 1968, Dr Glass set a very high standard when he aimed to summarise the important points in gastroenterological progress. This fourth edition is well up to standard. The art in producing a review book must lie partly in choosing topics which are ripe for review and partly in choosing authors who are both experts in their field and, somewhat more difficult, clear, logical, writers. It is hard to fault this book from either points of view.

The book is divided into four sections and covers aspects of the pathophysiology of gastrointestinal disease; a series of subjects under the heading of 'benign disease'; some aspects of cancer of the GI tract; and a section on endoscopy and imaging. The editors have chosen carefully within these broad fields. Several of the 27 chapters are outstandingly good. In the pathophysiology section, Whittle and Vane on actions and roles of prostanooids in the GI tract, Sarles *et al* on the pathogenesis of alcoholic pancreatitis and pancreatic lithiasis, and Davidson and Glickman on lipid absorption in man, are notable. In the benign disease section there are excellent short reviews on Barrett's oesophagus (Trier) on intestinal pseudo-obstruction (Anuras and Christensen) and on parenteral nutrition in inflammatory bowel disease (Sales and Rosenberg). Castell and his coauthor and J. Alexander-Williams and his, provide clear competent reviews of oesophageal function abnormalities and post-gastrectomy syndromes respectively.

In the gastrointestinal cancer section, there are good reviews on gastrointestinal carcinogenesis, epithelial dysplasia, and screening for colorectal cancer. Cancer risk in ulcerative colitis, chemoprevention of alimentary tract carcinogenesis, hormone producing GI tumours and nutritional problems in patients with GI cancer, are clear and well worth reading.

Christopher Williams' chapter on the 'logic and logistics of colon polyp follow up' is a very good, thoughtful, review which deserves careful attention and chapters on ERCP in the management of biliary

tract and pancreatic disease (Zimmon), laparoscopy (Lightdale) and laser photocoagulation for GI bleeding, (Protell, Silverstein and Auth) deserve mention.

It is good to see so much practical informative and helpful reviews packed into this one volume. I can strongly recommend this book to the practising gastroenterologist.

L. A. TURNBERG

Pathology of the esophagus By H Enterline and J Thompson. (Pp. 192; illustrated; \$50.80.) Berlin, New York: Springer, 1984.

Having passed the barrier of having books on organs or diseases alone rather than systems, we are now at that stage of specialisation when monographs are published on one particular aspect of an organ. This particular volume contains 192 pages and 185 figures on the pathology of the oesophagus and might have been expected to be too specialised because it is written by pathologists with the aim of broadening the subject for their brethren by adding clinical, physiological, and radiological data. It is very clearly and simply written, however, with no jargon and well structured sentences, presents its pathological message excellently and has the advantage of definite statements by the authors, who are acknowledged experts in their field, when there is controversy. An example is the suggestion that 'polypoid carcinoma with dominant spindle cell elements' be used instead of carcinosarcoma or pseudosarcoma. There is a good discussion on dysplasia and its relationship to oesophageal cancer with comparisons from cervical cancer which is associated with similar problems. The photomicrographs are very clear but the endoscopic pictures have those awful black dots, representing broken fiberoptic bundles and the failure of publishers to enhance the image by eliminating them. Clinicians interested in the oesophagus will learn much by reading this monograph on oesophageal pathology even though it was aimed at pathologists.

R. EARLAM

Books received

Cystic fibrosis: horizons Edited by D Lawson. (Pp. 446; illustrated; £15.00.) Chichester, Sussex: Wiley, 1984.

Hutchison's clinical methods 18th ed By M Swash and S Mason. (Pp. 502; illustrated; £5.50.) Eastbourne: Baillière Tindall, 1984.

Gastrointestinal endoscopy. Advances in diagnosis and therapy Volume 1 Edited by P R Salmon. (Pp. 278; illustrated; £17.50.) Andover Hants: Associated Book Publishers UK Limited, 1984.

Frontiers of hormone research. Interdisciplinary neuroendocrinology Volume editors: M Ratzenhofer, H Hofler, GF Walter. Series ed: TjB van Wimersma Greidanus. (Pp. 197; illustrated; \$88.75.) Basel, Switzerland: Karger, 1984.

News

British Society of Gastroenterology

The 1985 Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held at the University of Sussex from Wednesday 20 March to Friday 22 March 1985 under the Presidency of Professor Eric Blair. The first day was devoted to a teaching day on 'The ravages of alcohol'; duly warned, members and guests were entertained to a reception at the end of the day and progressed to the Conference Dinner in Hove Town Hall on the following evening. The scientific programme filled the second and third days, and included a lecture by Professor Howard Thomas, the 1985 Research Medallist. Apart from the programmes of various specialist groups that are now an established feature of the Society's meetings, 157 communications selected by the programme committee were given as oral or poster presentations.

BSG Research Award 1985

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Award Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1985 Award. 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 1985) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been 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 1986. Applications (*six* copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ. **BY 1 DECEMBER 1985.**

Correction

The name of Dr Jørgen Rask Madsen was inadvertently omitted from the referees' list in our January issue, p. 106, and we would like to apologise for this oversight.