

division and sleeve resection. The final section consists of results and discussion. Eighty one patients were operated upon in an eight year period from 1974–1982 and the main groups of patients were: 36 with carcinoma, nine with adenomas, 23 with rectal prolapse, five with fistulas and four with traumatic lesions.

The place of this operation has been considerably overstated and few surgeons would agree that it is a satisfactory operation for the treatment of low rectal cancer, meaning to the authors' tumour between 4 cm and 12 cm from the anal verge. Small carcinomas can be excised more easily and with less trauma via the per anal route. Most would not consider this a satisfactory route for treating rectal prolapse, particularly as they are always accompanied by a rectosigmoid resection and end-to-end anastomosis with a complication rate and results inferior to rectopexy.

At US\$46.30 an expensive monograph and not one to recommend for individual purchase but perhaps it has a place in units where the operation will be very occasionally undertaken.

P R HAWLEY

Advances in gastrointestinal surgery Edited by J S Najarian and J P Delaney. (Pp. 650; illustrated; £66.50.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1984

This is a compilation of articles in which American surgeons discuss problem areas in gastrointestinal surgery with the admixture of the obligatory physician or two and the obligatory European or two. Each batch of up to 10 papers is followed by a panel discussion and to get the flavour of the book each batch should be read together. It is most revealing of the attitudes and opinions of our North American colleagues. The range of topics is wide and well-chosen. The standard of presentation is also wide but uneven: for a book claiming to be a reference source, some of the contributions are rather superficial. Technically, the illustrations are disappointing. While by no means can all the details mentioned be called advances, the multiple authors have succeeded in providing an interesting 'state of the art' volume which will do well in North America but is overpriced for the United Kingdom and of peripheral interest as an outline of American surgical attitudes in this discipline.

H L DUTHIE

News

Sir Christopher Booth

We are pleased to record that Sir Christopher Booth, who was editor of *Gut* from 1975–82 has been nominated for the office of President of the British Medical Association 1986–87.

Retirement Festschrift

A Festschrift is to be held on 23 and 24 September 1985 to honour the retirement of Dr W Sircus and Mr W P Small. Further details from Dr Martin Eastwood, Wolfson Laboratories, G1 Unit, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh EH4 2XU.

World Congress of Gastroenterology

On 7–12 September 1986 São Paulo, Brazil will host the 8th World Congress of Gastroenterology, the 6th World Congress of Digestive Endoscopy, and the 3rd World Congress of Coloproctology. Further information from Congrex do Brazil, Rua Ouvidor, 60/614, 20030 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

Progress in the Pathophysiology and Treatment of Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers

An international symposium on the above will take place from 1–6 October 1985 in Felix-Oradea in Romania. Further details from Dr I Puşcaş, 4775 Simleu Silvaniei, Hospital Simleu Silvaniei, Department of Gastroenterology, Str Dunării, Romania.

9th World Congress of the Collegium Internationale Chirurgiae Digestivae (CICD)

This congress will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, from 31 August to 5 September 1986. Further information from The Secretariat, 9th CICD Congress, POB 983, 91009 Jerusalem, Israel.

5th Biennial Scientific Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver

Singapore will be hosting this meeting which will be held from 8–11 January 1986 at the Shangri-La Hotel. Further details from the Secretariat, APASL 1986, Academy of Medicine, 4-A College Road, Singapore 0316.

10th International Hepatic Update 1985

To be held at the Royal Free Hospital, London, from 18–20 July 1985. Details from Professor Neil McIntyre, The Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.