Department of Surgery,
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and
Department of Surgery,
Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich.

References

- 1 Collier D StJ, Pain JA. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and peptic ulcer perforation. *Gut* 1985; **26**: 359–63.
- 2 Grossman MI, Matsumoto KK, Lichter RJ. Fecal blood loss produced by oral and intravenous administration of various salicylates. *Gastroenterology* 1961; **40**: 383–8.

Books

The gastroenterology annual/2 Edited by F Kern Jr, and A L Blum. (Pp. 416; illustrated; \$55) Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1984.

This is the second volume in the series *The gastroenterology current annuals*, the aim of which is to provide 'thoughtful, critical, timely and thorough reviews' of important developments in gastroenterology on an annual basis.

The current volume reviews papers published between July 1982 and July 1983, and contains 11 chapters by 27 authors (none from the UK). The topics covered and the number of references given for each are:— the oesophagus (103 references); stomach and duodenum (348); pancreas (278); absorption and malabsorption (67); intestinal electrolyte transport and diarrhoeal disease (130); hormones and neuropeptides of the gut (68); immunology; (80); inflammatory bowel disease (142); vascular physiology and pathophysiology (135); basic gastrointestinal oncology (235); paediatric gastroenterology (385).

But the volume is not merely a compendium of the papers published in the period under review. Without exception I think the reviewers have covered their topics well, offering critical analysis of methodology and interpretation of papers covered, providing links between one paper and another, identifying conceptual developments as they have occurred and drawing attention to gaps in knowledge. There are of course differences in style and approach between the different groups of authors. I liked in particular the thoughtful chapter on stomach and duodenum (Koelz, Malinowska, and Muller-Lissner), the authoritative chapter by Sarles and colleagues on the pancreas, the pellucid contribution by Makhoul on hormones and neuropeptides of the gut, the gutsy (pun intended) chapter by Singleton on inflammatory bowel dis-

ease, and above all the outstanding review on basic gastrointestinal oncology by Bresalier and colleagues – this is a mine of information.

The volume meets the aims of the editors and would provide a very useful resource for everyone who wishes to keep abreast of the rapid developments in gastroenterology. I warmly recommend it. If the standards of this volume are maintained in the future, *Gastroenterology current annuals* are assured of a wide readership.

G P CREAM

'Gastroenterology revision' illustrated case histories and MCQs By R A Bradbear, C R Campbell and L W Powell. (Pp 201; illustrated; £7.95.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1984.

I greatly enjoyed reviewing *Gastroenterology revision*. The book is structured around 20 clinical situations based on major gastrointestinal and hepatic symptoms and signs, dysphagia, abdominal pain, jaundice, vomiting, and diarrhoea for example. The clinical presentation of each patient is followed by a series of multiple-choice questions and the diagnostic and therapeutic process evolves within the setting of a problem solving exercise.

The questions relating to the clinical situation, the development of the case history, and the solutions presented are all reasonably uncontroversial. The overall standard of both questions and answers is high. Particularly pleasing is the way in which the solutions to the questions are placed at the end of each case history and accompanies by a succinct and crisp explanation of the authors' decision. My only note of criticism relates to the quality of the figures which are, on the whole, poorly reproduced particularly the histology.

This text is not a substitute for the conventional textbook of gastroenterology. But it is a welcome and refreshing companion which will provide both education and enjoyment to senior undergraduates and gastroenterologists in training as well as the more experienced practitioner. The state aim of *Gastroenterology revision* is to teach and in this it succeeds admirably.

IAN A D BOUCHIER

Mucus and mucosa Ciba Foundation Symposium No. 109, Edited by J Nugent and M O'Connor. (Pp. 246; illustrated; £26.50.) London: Pitman, 1984.

The 14 chapters in this latest volume of the Ciba Foundation Symposium series are written by a blend of basic scientists and clinicians interested in various aspects of mucus research. Although the range of interests vary from anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and bioengineering to gynaecology, paediatrics and adult medicine, the text is remarkably uniform