eventual appearance of these complications more likely. The very diversity and complexity of the diabetic gastrointestinal afflications has made their study an unpopular topic. Because they are nevertheless of considerable clinical importance the publication of a book particularly devoted to their description is very much to be welcomed. Here are described conditions from gingivitis diabetic to diabetic anal incontinence, by way of diabetic dysphagia, gastroparesis, diabetic diarrhoea and diabetic megacolon, to mention a few of the better described syndromes. The book is brief and based on the experience of the author in the diabetic polyclinic of Janos Municipal Hospital, Budapest where more than a thousand patients with gastrointestinal diabetic disorders have been investigated by the author. Naturally these investigations are clinical in nature and particularly involve the extensive use of carefully done radiographs. There is little attempt to use more recently developed techniques, for example in the analysis of motor dysfunction or immunocytochemical classification of nerve degeneration. It would be nice to know, for example, what the influence of aldose reductase inhibition would be in the development of these syndromes. All in all this is a very useful compilation of clinical observations. It is well referenced and nicely printed and must be one of the best value specialist publications around.

S R BLOOM

Pathology of the colon, small intestine and anus

Pathology of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum

These two volumes in the series Contemporary issues in surgical pathology are considered together because they are obvious companion volumes and anyone interested enough to buy one would undoubtedly enjoy the other. Intestinal hurry, in contrast with gastric stasis, no doubt accounts for the reason that the volume on the Colon, small intestine and anus, vol 3, appeared before that on the Esophagus, stomach and duodenum, vol 4.

Volume 3 is edited by Professor Norris and contains 11 chapters written by distinguished pathologists and one by a physician. The first four chapters cover most of the aspects of inflammatory bowel disease including immunology and there then follows a chapter on ischaemic bowel disease. The physician contributes the only chapter on the small intestine dealing with small bowel biopsy and malabsorption. The remaining chapters comprise two on colonic polyps and cancer and one each on neoplasms of the appendix, anus, and endocrine cells of the gut.

All the chapters achieve a good balance between descriptive pathology aetiology, pathogenesis, and clinical outcome.

Volume 4 is edited by Professor Appelman. In this volume, seven authors contribute eight chapters with Professor Appelman contributing two of them. Both of these deal with topics difficult to find documented elsewhere. One is on gastric mucosal polyps and folds, and the other on stromal tumours of the oesophagus, stomach, and duodenum. The book begins with a chapter on diseases of the oesophagus and is followed by a review of gastritis and duodenitis. There are chapters on gastric cancer, neoplasms of the duodenum and periampullary region, lymphoid proliferations of the stomach and on the endocrine pathology of the upper gastrointestinal tract. Like volume 3, the chapters are excellent reviews of their subjects and contain comprehensive bibliographies.

I would wholly recommend both volumes to clinicians and pathologists. They will be regularly referred to during the course of anyone’s routine gastroenterological practice.

ASHLEY B PRICE

Colour atlas of subdiaphragmatic total gastrectomy for malignant lesions

A colour atlas, at first sight, seems an attractive way to teach operative surgery; but we must first ask whom it is intended to teach. Is it for the FRCS candidate who is doing the procedure for the first time, or is it the more experienced surgeon who has not performed the operation recently, and wishes to check the details beforehand? This book is the 30th in the series of Colour Atlases and is compact, easy to read and well laid out. The introduction, with indication and contraindication for operations gives an excellent summary. The text throughout is clear, helpful, and succinct. Minor criticism might be that the operator is not reminded about the importance of a full laparotomy before treating the tumour, and is not instructed to open the lesser sac early on. Some surgeons would consider excision of the xiphisternum unnecessary with the use of a subcostal retractor.

The book, however, stands or falls on the photography. Some of the pictures have so much red background that it is difficult to identify the structures and in others it is difficult to orientate the