in which they will approach the use of books and journals in their subsequent clinical practice.

This short book is an addition to Blackwell's *Lecture Notes* series. It is intended for undergraduates and would have little appeal to readers of *Gut*. The author does not attempt to give a balanced and sensible overview of liver disease, but because of the limited space available there are inevitably some omissions, and physiological and biochemical aspects are covered in a rather cursory manner. Each chapter has a list of references but these are far from comprehensive. Today £7.50 may not seem much for a small soft covered book of 184 pages, including index, but the liver sections of the *Oxford textbook of medicine* works out at less than £1.50 and that book must surely be considered a better buy for students than a collection of *Lecture Notes*.

N MCINTYRE

Clinical nutrition: volume 2: Parenteral nutrition. Edited by J L Rombeau and M D Caldwell. (Pp. 752; illustrated; £65.00.) New York: W B Saunders, 1986.

The upsurge of interest in the last 20 years in nutritional support as an integral feature of good clinical care has resulted in an avalanche of publications and intense debate. This undoubtedly has led to confusion with an initial period of underutilisation of parenteral nutrition, followed by some over usage in clinical conditions where oral or enteral feeding would perhaps have been more appropriate.

This book is the second in a two volume set by the same editors, the first was devoted to enteral nutrition and this more substantial tome, 752 pages, to parenteral nutrition. There is very little repetition between the two publications. It may reasonably be asked, with many available textbooks concerned with parenteral nutrition, why yet another? The editors have turned to 83 authors almost exclusively from North America to answer the question. The philosophy underlying the book is the need to clearly and comprehensively communicate the clinical and metabolic advances in parenteral feeding which have occurred in recent years. The topics covered range from the history of intravenous nutrition to a consideration of the metabolism of individual substrates, hormone and substrate interactions, fluid, electrolyte, vitamin and trace elements and considerations of body composition. The mechanics of parenteral feeding and the potential complications are particularly carefully considered together with an interesting chapter about computer applications in TPN and a most welcome chapter discussing the cost effectiveness of nutritional support. The last third of the book considers the role of

TPN in specific clinical conditions, inflammatory bowel disease, pancreatitis, fistulae, short bowel syndrome, malabsorption, cancer, trauma, sepsis, cardiac, renal and hepatic disease, and in children and the elderly.

The subjects considered have outstanding common characteristics; they are all logically and clearly discussed and each chapter has a comprehensive and up to date list of references. A disappointment to the British reader is the repetitive use of North American commercial names which will reduce the effectiveness of some chapters as there is no indication of the UK equivalent solution. This is, however, a minor observation in a book which has something for every clinician. This is the most comprehensive book on TPN to be published for many years, and the editors are to be congratulated for being able to maintain a uniform standard throughout.

The price precludes this being a book for most individual bookshelves, but a copy in the hospital library is a must.

A W GOODE

A colour atlas of gastrointestinal endoscopy By K F R Schiller, R Cockel and R H Hunt. (Pp. 240; illustrated; £65.00). London: Chapman and Hall Medical, 1986.

The teaching of endoscopy presents a problem. The technique of manipulating and positioning a flexible fiberoptic endoscope is acquired relatively easily by practical experience under supervision, but then, for the inexperienced, the problems start. You see an unfamiliar picture. Is it a normal variant, or a pathological lesion, and if the latter, what is it, and who do you ask? A colour atlas of normal and pathological appearances is one answer; it is easier to open a book than to play around with 'teaching videos'. The explicit aim of the authors of this book is to provide just such a work of reference, rather than a comprehensive manual, and they have abundantly justified their efforts. This is an excellent volume, with a superb profusion of colour plates, and a helpful commentary which clearly represents the distillation of considerable experience. Obviously they were faced with a number of difficult decisions over what should be included and what should be left out, and others might have done this book differently. There are some aspects that need to be considered for future editions. Some of the photographs are supplemented by line drawings whose purpose is not always clear; for example, the drawings on pages 51 and 53 seem to add nothing to the accompanying photographs. Line drawings to