show the position of the endoscope in relation to the
area in view might be helpful, especially in the
sections dealing with normal appearances; space for
such an addition might be gained by reducing the
number of examples of radiographs obtained by
ERCP, as it might be argued that these belong
within a textbook of radiology. It would be much
easier to identify text references to illustrations if
the identifying letters were printed in bold type.

The important point, however, about this book is
not what might have been done by people who have
not actually done it, but what has been achieved by
this British team. This is an outstanding production,
which is a credit to authors and publishers alike. It is
balanced, comprehensive, clearly written and illus-
trated, and compulsively readable (or viewable). It
is hard to imagine any gastroenterologist who would
not benefit from access to it. The price may deter
individual purchasers, but it should at least be made
available wherever gastrointestinal endoscopy is
practised.

DAVID WINGATE

Gastroenterology annual 3. Edited by F Kern Jr, and
A L Blum. (Pp. 608; illustrated; Dfl 200.)

The Gastroenterology annual has undoubtedly
come to stay and is now virtually an indispensable
resource for all of us in the field. The third volume is
larger than its predecessors (47 reviewers, 18 chap-
ters, 608 pages, more than 3000 references) and
amply meets the objectives of the editors in provid-
ing a 'scholarly, up-to-date, critical review of the
important new developments in gastroenterology';
the period reviewed is from July 1982 to Decem-
ber 1984. Topics covered include the oesophagus,
stomach and duodenum, pancreas, absorption/
malabsorption of nutrients, intestinal fluid and
electrolyte transport and diarrhoeal diseases, gut
peptides, neurophysiology of the GI tract, immu-
nology and bacterial infections, inflammatory bowel
disease, vascular physiology and pathophysiology,
cancer of the alimentary tract, diseases of the col-
ontum and anus, paediatric gastroenterology,
selected issues in nutrition, diagnostic imaging
techniques, and endoscopy of the upper and lower
GI tract. The volume represents a highly critical and
very readable account of everything that has moved
in these fields in the last 18 months; the reviewers
consider all the major papers that have been written
in their fields, draw attention to doubts and
controversies, link ideas and concepts critically for
us, and where relevant, draw on historical perspec-
tives as well.

There is something here for everyone including
the practising physician and surgeon, the physiolog-
ist, oncologist, basic scientist, and the fairly ad-
vanced trainee anxious to get a grip of what is
happening in gastroenterology.

For myself I was particularly impressed by David
Wingate's chapter on neurophysiology of the gas-
trointestinal tract in which he describes the ex-
perimenetal and conceptual developments which
have led to the acceptance of the notion of an
enteric nervous system; this is a splendid con-
tribution. I was taken also by Brown's chapter on
the immunology of the gastrointestinal tract and his
account of the fascinating developments in coeliac
disease and immunological 'trailers' in inflammatory
bowel disease. Singleton's brisk review of inflam-
atory bowel disease and the chapter on cancer of the
GI tract by Bresalier and others were every bit as
good as their chapters in Volume 2.

Volume 3 of the Gastroenterology annual is a
credit to its editors and reviewers; anybody who
claims to have an interest in gastroenterology should
buy it.

G P CREAN

Books received

Edsall summaries for health professionals No. 2. Food
allergy. Edited by P Scowan, G Medhurst, J Leslie, and
D N Challacombe. (Pp. 96; illustrated; price not stated.)

Complete guide to prescription and non-prescription drugs
Edited by H Winter-Griffith. (Pp. 888; illustrated; $12.95.)

Notes on the evolution of a medical specialist 1907–1965
By Burrill B Crohn. (Pp. 79; not illustrated; $5.00.)

News

Complex Polysaccharides – Challenges for Future
Research on Dietary Fibre

This symposium will be held at the Royal Society of
Medicine, London on 27 and 28 November 1986.
For further information and an application form,
contact Kate Holborow, Hill & Knowlton (UK) Ltd.,
5–11 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8SH.

Correction

We regret that an error occurred in the article by
page 500, column 2 last line, RRgo should have read
RR90, and Ago should have read A90. This also
applies on p 501, column 1, line 1 and 2.