function of the oesophagus taken. There is no
mention of the dysfunction which produces pharyn-
geal pouches and sideropaenic dysphagia. In the
case of gastric motor function, the essential role of
this aspect of gastric function in regulating the whole
activity of the remainder of the alimentary tract is
not discussed, and the examples provided by gast-
rectomy and vagotomy are not sufficiently analy-
sed. There is no mention of H^+K^+ ATPase;
histamine and its role and cells of origin; sham
feeding and gastric distension studies in man and
their abnormalities; nor the role of the stomach in
the absorption of micronutrients other than vitamin
B_{12}. There is the usual quotation of the studies of
pH gradients from 2 to 7 across gastric mucus, as if
that situation is ever encountered in normal indi-
viduals. From the point of view of pancreatic
function, the instructive sequelae of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency in illustrating aspects of nor-
mal function are not discussed. Similarly, the lessons
to be learnt from malabsorption of food in general
are much better covered elsewhere.

There are a few minor criticisms. The English is
unsatisfactory in places. The section opening the
discussion of chewing is virtually incomprehensible,
as is the discussion of the control of salivary
secretion (convergence). There are a few inaccu-
racies, such as the effects of selective vagotomy on
gastric innervation; on the occurrence and control of
duodenogastric reflux in normal gastric function
(ignoring the studies of Heading); on the composi-
tion of saliva and pancreatic juice with increasing
rates of secretion, especially in man.

The book is undoubtedly useful and, with
rigorous revision, can become very valuable. I wish
the authors well with their project.

K G WORMSLEY

Notes on the evolution of a medical specialist By
Burrill B Crohn. (Pp. 79; not illustrated; US $5.00).
New York: Burrill B Crohn Research Foundation
Inc. 1986.

Although this memoir does include a brief of the
events preceding and following the description of
regional ileitis, it is in no sense a scientific work. It is
a memoir of some of the events of a crowded
lifetime; a reminiscence in the tranquility of old age
which concludes with the distinguished author’s
decision to retire to his farm at the age of 85. It gives
a vivid picture of growing up as a New York
physician in the early part of the 20th century, in
some ways reminiscent of Axel Munthe’s classic
autobiography. It is salutary and entertaining read-
ing for contemporary gastroenterologists, and it
would appear that the modest price goes to a good
cause.

DAVID WINGATE

Atlas on left hemicolecction. Vol 31. By N A
Matheson. (Pp. 64; illustrated; £15); A colour atlas
of revision operations. Vol. 33. By J Alexander-
Williams. (illustrated; £14). And A colour atlas of
mucosal proctectomy and ileal reservoir formation.
Vol. 36. By T Vincent Taylor. (Illustrated; £14)

These are three more in the well known series of
convenient sized manuals of operative surgery which
are based on colour photographs with short anno-
tations. Each volume has details of draping and
making the incision, presumably so that each stands
alone as a manual in its own right, but the atlas on
left hemicolecction (vol. 31) has 25 figures on the
incision and routine laparotomy, which seems exces-
sive. I had difficulty in following many of the
pictures, not so much because of a fault in the
photographs but because it is difficult to orientate