

function of the oesophagus taken. There is no mention of the dysfunction which produces pharyngeal 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 gastrectomy and vagotomy are not sufficiently analysed. 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 individuals. From the point of view of pancreatic function, the instructive sequelae of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency in illustrating aspects of normal function are not discussed. Similarly, the lessons to be learnt from malassimilation 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 inaccuracies, 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 composition 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

The Liver Annual/5. A series of critical surveys of the international literature. Edited by I M Arias, M Frenkel and J H P Wilson (Pp. 558; illustrated; \$69) Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Elsevier, 1986.

This edition, the fifth in the series, contains 18 essays on various aspects of liver disease. As usual, the authors have been carefully chosen to include those in the forefront of research. This certainly keeps the reader up to date, and literature is well reviewed up to, but not including, 1985. Some chapters place more emphasis on the rat than man. Critical analysis of the literature is often absent, and illustrations and tables scanty. An exception can be made for the excellent figure of the DNA hepatitis genome and its transcription on page 174. This all makes the reading rather heavy going. An exception can be made for the chapter on portal hypertension

by T B Reynolds, which is strictly clinical and provides an excellent summary of the state of the art. E A Jones and colleagues also cover hepatic encephalopathy in great detail both at clinical and experimental levels.

This book will be a valuable acquisition to any medical library, particularly where funds allow each volume to be purchased as it appears. A topic missing one year will almost certainly be covered in the next. The research fellow or resident, faced with a paper or seminar on liver disease will undoubtedly find the subject covered in the series, and a valuable baseline of information will be provided. The price will deter most general readers.

SHEILA SHERLOCK

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 reading for contemporary gastroenterologists, and it would appear that the modest price goes to a good cause.

DAVID WINGATE

Atlas on left hemicolectomy. 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) London: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, 1986. These are three more in the well known series of convenient sized manuals of operative surgery which are based on colour photographs with short annotations. 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 hemicolectomy (vol. 31) has 25 figures on the incision and routine laparotomy, which seems excessive. 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