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


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


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 hemicolecotomy (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
close up photographs without neighbouring structures for identification. The details of the suturing technique, on the other hand, are well shown because they are confined to an immediately identifiable area; the use of a spring loaded suture holder is a useful tip. Much space is spent at the end of the book on wound closure. The main value of this volume is its explanation of particular suturing techniques but I am not sure that a surgeon could perform a hemicolectomy from the illustrations if he had not already been taught the operation. This raises the whole question of the grade of surgeon for whom the atlases are intended.

The second book (vol. 33) on gastric revision operations has the important addition of line diagrams to explain steps in the operation and to identify structures and the pictures are of the correct scale. On the other hand, details are given of various investigations such as acid secretion and HIDA scans ('acid secretion studies are an essential part of the investigation of patients after gastric operations') but no information is given how they should be interpreted or how they help in the decision making process. With this proviso, this is one of the best volumes of the series so far.

The third volume (vol. 36) on mucosal proctectomy and ileal reservoir formation suffers from the same disadvantage as the first as far as the abdominal part of the operation is concerned. The pouch formation and proctectomy parts, however, are well illustrated and the steps can be clearly identified in the photographs. As only experienced surgeons will be performing this operation they will be able to interpret the pictures and follow the detailed steps and find considerable help with this rather difficult procedure.

The colour reproduction in all three volumes avoids the red glare which was a feature of some of the earlier books in this series and the brief text is clear and well set out.

A G JOHNSON

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Books received

**Clinical guide to parenteral micro-nutrition** Edited by T G Baumgartner. (Pp. 388; illustrated; $29-95.) Gainesville: Educational Publications Ltd. 1985.


