who found it excellent for students in some areas such as the formation of gall stones and conditions which affect the biliary system but far too brief to act as a reference book with such comments on chemotherapy for the Zollinger Ellison syndrome limited to a single sentence. There are a large number of radiographs and some CT scans, many of which are either of poor quality or inadequately reproduced. Though the preface states that detailed description of operative technique has not been included, there are diagrams of two types of inguinal hernia repair with which students are usually overindocrinated, whereas the section on inflammatory diseases of the colon where students sometimes have problems, the only diagram refers to mucosal proctectomy with the ileal reservoir. It is difficult to see why some of the illustrations have been selected for inclusion such as a diagram of the six variations of appendicular position. Although this book is quite easy to read, it has some odd inclusions and mysterious exclusions. Why, for example, mention Montezuma's revenge without reference to gippy tummy or Delhi belly?

Though by no means a small book and containing some reference to the majority of topics that surgical trainees might wish to refer to, its main defect may well be brevity in areas considered important for examinations. For example, the metabolic effects of trauma are dealt with in a paragraph of 10 lines.

This book is difficult to review, for the author, in trying to give an overview of the subject may well be over shooting. The test will lie in whether final year medical students or those preparing for the FRCS will find it suitable for their purpose.

C G CLARK

Diarrhoeal disease and malnutrition. Edited by M. Gracey. (Pp. 230; illustrated; £30.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

Although this book is mainly about diarrhoeal disease among children in areas where malnutrition is widespread, it contains much of interest to the gastroenterologist in more developed countries. There are sections on gastrointestinal immunity, parasites, weaning patterns, microbial contamination of food and water, lactose intolerance and the physiological basis of oral rehydration solution – not much that is new but clearly written. Among the more recently described pathogens there are comprehensive accounts of the pathogenesis of enteropathogenic *E coli* together with accounts of the astroviruses and coronaviruses. There is a particularly interesting section on prospects for anti-diarrhoeal therapy in acute diarrhoeas in which the physiological and pharmacological basis for the development of novel therapies is described. The

account of the role of improved water supplies and sanitation in prevention of diarrhoeal disease dispels any naive assumption that diarrhoea is easily prevented and it seems relevant to include a section on vaccines against enteric infections. The present and future possibilities for the development of vaccines against cholera, enterotoxigenic *E coli*, shigella, campylobacter, and rotavirus are described and the biological reasons for many of the vaccine failures in the past are rather instructive. There is a delightfully clear section on types of effective oral rehydration therapy using materials available in the home. Finally there is a review of 23 studies on changing patterns in childhood mortality from diarrhoeal disease in developing countries in recent years – 19 of them showed a significant decrease. While there is no room for complacency there is room for encouragement in using some of the strategies outlined in this challenging book.

ANDREW TOMKINS

Inflammatory bowel disease: experience and controversy By B I Korelitz and N Sohn. (Pp 297; illustrated; \$32.) Orlando, Florida: Grune & Stratton, 1985.

This book is based on a postgraduate course held at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York. The contributors are drawn from North America (predominantly New York City). It comprises 36 chapters divided into seven sections. There are some 270 pages of text and nearly two-thirds of the chapters are less than six pages in length. Despite the title and unusual sequence of topics, the book is really a concise textbook of inflammatory bowel disease, perhaps most appropriate for physicians and surgeons in the early postgraduate years.

Section 1 includes reviews of IBD in children, the elderly, and male homosexuals. The review of the disease in childhood is probably the best available summary. The second section summarises pathogenesis including a concise, clear summary of the immunological changes by David Sachar and a scholarly review of epidemiology by Albert Mendeloff. The third consists of gynaecological aspects, pregnancy, and carcinoma. The histopathological changes of dysplasia are clearly described and illustrated by Sheldon Sommers.

Section 4 is a brief review of standard medical treatment but does include a good account of the role of metronidazole. The highlight of the fifth section concerned with diagnosis is a review of flexible endoscopy by Jerome Waye. The sixth section is a pot pourri of special problems and the book closes with a short review of surgical treatment including the evaluation of the quality of life after surgical treatment and a summary of the place of