

in interpreting results are outlined from the endoscopist's point of view. This is well worth reading if the reader is planning to participate in a clinical trial.

The volume starts with a detailed account of the video endoscope describing the mechanism of light sensitivity, of the chip at the tip of the instrument and the methodologies used to convert that into an image. It is well worth reading – although of little practical value!

There are five chapters involving ERCP and these are apparently scattered in random order. There is as mentioned, an overlap, but the review by Venu and Geenan on diseases of the papilla is particularly useful. The chapter on upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage is unfortunately rather weak being superficial in its treatment of several aspects. No doubt space limited the reviewer's ability to make the chapter comprehensive, but treatment of bleeding varices is particularly limited, and the use of the laser in GI haemorrhage largely confined to the author's experience and is very incomplete in assessment of the literature. There is a superbly illustrated chapter on the use of dyes and magnifying endoscopes for early cancer detection. The patience and time needed for the limited return is considerable though. This book is to be recommended to practising endoscopists – it does help to update and in a practical way.

D G COLIN-JONES

Recent advances in gastroenterology Edited by R E Pounder. (Pp. 367; illustrated; £35.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1986.

Recent advances in gastroenterology has been a successful series. The editor of this edition, Roy Pounder, has reverted to the scheme of selecting topics of current interest, ranging from duodenal biochemistry and small gut permeability, to abdominal computed tomography and food intolerance. This makes it an interesting browsing book for the professional gastroenterologist rather than a broad update for the trainee or generalist. A fifth of the book is devoted to gastroduodenal disease, reflecting the interests of the editor and the presence of a pharmaceutical company's imprimatur on the dustcover.

Every chapter is sound, authoritative, and balanced. At first sight the chapters on paediatric, gay and veterinary gastroenterology might seem like peripheral reading, for purposes of curiosity only, to most 'main-line' gastroenterologists, but the three well written contributions make it clear that any of us may find ourselves dealing with an infant or a homosexual and, if not an animal, then at least diseases related to veterinary ones. Gut microbiology

seems to be better studied and understood in animals than in *homo sapiens*.

Every chapter is heavily referenced but a novel and welcome addition is a comprehensive and well indexed list of reviews and leading articles published in 1983 and 1984.

A good read for every gastroenterologist.

J R BENNETT

The enteric nervous system By J B Furness and M Costa. (Pp. 290; illustrated; £45.) Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This book summarises the current state of knowledge about the intrinsic innervation of the mammalian alimentary canal. It consists of 10 chapters on various aspects of the enteric nervous system including the basic anatomy, neurochemistry, electrophysiology, control of motility and secretion, and the role of the sympathetic nervous innervation of the gut (not strictly part of the enteric nervous system, but essential for completeness).

Each chapter starts with a brief introductory section that sets the scene, and ends with a useful summary. Recent findings are well surveyed and the book is remarkable for the historical background that is also provided. Time and time again one is struck by the authors' attempt to reconcile what is often conflicting and fragmentary evidence into a unified story (in many cases for the first time). This valuable and brave (if occasionally weighty) attempt betrays the careful thought that has gone into this book. It will no doubt become a standard text for anyone interested in the nervous control of the gut and will be a continual source of reference. For clinical people the book provides an accessible entry to the esoteric world of 'pure research'; this will be essential reading to understand the implications of basic research for future medical and surgical intervention.

S J H BROOKES

Liver disease and gallstones – the facts By Alan G Johnson and David R Triger. (Pp. 109; illustrated; £7.50.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

On reading the title and seeing the size of this book the average postgraduate student might have believed that here at last was a small and authoritative text book of hepatology which might help to propel him forward in his chosen career. Unfortunately, despite its authoritative title it is in fact intended to be read by patients and their relatives, and it is one of a series of nearly 30 books on a variety of medical topics, all produced for the same consumer group.

The volume is written by two academic gastro-