Patient group	Patients (n)	Mean age (yr)	Mean disease duration	Number with DNA aneuploidy in non-cancerous mucosa	
				Patient	Sample
Cancer in UC	21	48.9	19.0	11/21	43/111
Dysplasia in UC	10	46.8	18.3	3/10	10/82
Longstanding UC (no dys)	12	47.3	18.8	0/12	0/61
Short history UC (no dys)	7	26.0	2.0	0/7	0/7

Dysplasia in UC=patients who in their colectomy specimens had low or high grade dysplasia (dys); UC=ulcerative colitis. Average coefficient of variation for flow cytometry curves=4.7%.

Books

Topics in gastroenterology 13 Edited by D P Jewell and R W Chapman. (Pp. 277; illustrated; £37.50.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1985.

This book is the 13th of the well known series based on the gastroenterology courses held annually in Oxford. In this case the course was held in January 1985. The book contains a series of short reviews by British authors of a variety of topics, grouped under six headings: metabolic liver disease, gastrointestinal infections, surgical controversies, disorders of motility, nuclear magnetic resonance and polyps. In general the chapters are well written and easily read and the quality of the printing is excellent.

I found that the most useful sections were those on infections and on nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). The infections include campylobacter, giardiasis and the topical 'gay bowel' syndrome. The basic principles of NMR are explained and the following chapter describes briefly some images of liver and other diseases with impressive illustrations.

The other sections all contain interesting material, although much of it is obtainable from the many current large textbooks on gastroenterology produced on both sides of the Atlantic. The chapters on fatty liver, endocrine abnormalities of chronic liver disease, disorders of gastric emptying, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction and on bacteria and colorectal adenomas are particularly valuable however, because they bring together a lot of information about topics that are described only superficially even in the larger textbooks. The chapters on haemochromatosis, Wilson's disease, polyp-cancer sequence, familial polyposis coli and the surgical treatment of oesophagitis and biliary strictures relate to topics that are well covered elsewhere, although in several cases the author's own experience and contributions to the literature are of particular interest. Special tribute should be paid to the late Mr E C G Lee whose chapter on minimal surgery for Crohn's disease of the small gut describes the technique of strictureplasty, which he did so much to popularise.

This is a book for the clinician rather than for the scientist and it is useful both for the gastroenterologist in training and for the established practitioner. It is a 'good read' but the hardback edition seems overpriced and I would not recommend it for private purchase. With so many annual reviews, current opinions etc now available it is difficult to know where these annual proceedings from Oxford should stand in the catalogue. Their appeal is brevity, clarity, and topicality and they invite quick and even superficial reading rather than detailed study. Within these limits, this edition can be warmly recommended as a worthy successor to the previous 12 volumes.

G E SLADEN

News

Leeds Course in Clinical Medicine

This course will be held from 8-11 September 1987 in Leeds. Details from Director of Continuing Education, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT. Tel: (0532) 435036.

Obesity Surgery

The Third International Symposium on Obesity Surgery will be held in Rapallo (Genoa, Italy) from 20-23 September 1987. Details from Dr Ezio Gianetta, Istituto di Patologia Chirurgica, Università di Genova, Ospedale S Martino, 16132 Genova, Italy.

25th Anniversary of the Royal College of Pathologists

The Silver Jubilee meeting will be held in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London from 8-11 September, 1987. Programme available from Concorde Services Ltd, 10 Wendell Road, London W12 9RT. Tel: 01-431 3106.

Future Research Approaches in IBD

A workshop conference on the mechanisms of chronic infection and inflammation will be held from 7-11 October 1987 at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort in Florida, USA. Details from Marjorie Merrick, Res & Educ Dept, National Fdn for Ileitis and Colitis, 444 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, USA.