The book closes with a review of other environmental factors in pathogenesis including breast feeding, sugar intake, dietary fibre, chemical factors and psychosomatic aspects.

This book is the best available guide to the genetics and epidemiology of inflammatory bowel disease.

ROBERT ALLAN

Guide to the ultrasound examination of the abdomen
Dr Skolnick has approached the practical problems of ultrasound diagnosis in an interesting way. His aim is to assist the ultrasound operator to carry out a properly organised and directed ultrasound examination. Each organ or organ system is given its own chapter. The normal appearances and scanning methods are initially described and then the differential diagnosis is established on the basis of the ultrasound features, with the emphasis on the important characteristics of each disease process.
Each chapter is well referenced up to 1985, although the emphasis is very much on the American literature with very little sign of the European or Japanese contribution.
Unfortunately the target audience of this book is unclear. The detail in each chapter is insufficient to assist the experienced radiologist or interested gastroenterologist but may be of some use to junior staff in training. Even here, the level of detailed approach would be insufficient for the Fellowship examination. I suspect the main target audience is the very large number of ultrasound technologists who carry out abdominal ultrasound in the United States. There, most of the reports are issued by the radiologist reporting purely from hard copy or video tape. It is obviously important under these circumstances that the examination is technically as complete as possible and here this book would be very useful.
This is an approach which has never found favour in Europe where the gastroenterologist or radiologist has performed abdominal ultrasound examinations himself, the whole diagnostic process being interactive with the acquisition of the scan data. In America, the European approach is finding favour and many more physicians and radiologists are now performing their own scans.
In Europe this book will only be of value to the ultrasound neophyte who is struggling to teach himself the basics of the technique. It will probably be a useful addition to the Radiology Department's library, but would be of little value to gastroenterologists and gastrointestinal radiologists.

W R LEES