

Books

Crohn's disease: treatment and pathogenesis. By Colm A O'Morain. (Pp. 176; illustrated; £82.50.) Boca Raton, Florida: C R C Press Incorporated, 1987.

This is an unusual book. To discover the author's intentions the reader should turn first to the closing chapter which outlines his hypothesis for the pathogenesis of Crohn's disease. The basis for this hypothesis is the author's personal research which is summarised in this volume. Treatment is only included where it impinges on pathogenesis – for example, avoiding food antigens using an elemental diet or corticosteroid therapy to reduce the inflammatory response.

The first chapter, a tribute to the ingenuity of a wide range of workers in this field, is an overview of pathogenesis and the relevant aspects of treatment.

Six chapters (nearly 60 pages) are devoted to close scrutiny of neutrophil function including *in vivo* and *in vitro* phagocytosis and anti-idiotypic antibodies (not anti-idiot antibodies which could have widespread application). This section closes with studies of neutrophil selective and organelle marker enzymes in the rectal mucosa.

There are three further chapters concerned with studies of the rectal mucosa including subcellular fractionation of organelles, vasoactive intestinal peptide levels, and tests of mucosal integrity.

The closing chapters include a controlled trial of elemental diet in the treatment of acute Crohn's disease and studies of sulphasalazine induced male infertility in animal models. There are 25 pages of key references and a brief index.

This is a detailed analysis of selective topics in the pathogenesis of Crohn's disease of particular interest to the author. Research workers sharing these interests will need a copy of this book but it will have limited appeal for the general reader.

ROBERT ALLAN

Topics in gastroenterology 15 By D P Jewell and Y R Mahida. (Pp. 243; illustrated; £49.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1987.

This volume represents the proceedings of the 15th postgraduate course in gastroenterology, held in Oxford in January 1987. There are 22 chapters each of approximately 10 pages, discussing different aspects of five topics: practical problems in liver disease, viral hepatitis, ulcerative colitis – the new salicylates, ulcerative colitis, and new endoscopic techniques.

Each of the chapters is short – on average only nine

pages, including Figures and Tables – but my most serious criticism concerns the unusual system of referencing used throughout the book. Each reference has its authors listed in full (the record seems to be up to 12), with the year, journal title, volume number and first page. Hence, both the title of the article and its full pagination are missing. This means that it is very difficult for the interested reader to assess the potential value of following up a reference.

Overall, I think the book provides an enjoyable selection of short essays, but I wonder whether they are of sufficient value to justify the extremely high price of this volume.

R E POUNDER

Manual of gastroenterology: diagnosis and therapy. By G L Eastwood and C Avunduk. (Pp. 368; illustrated; £9.95.) Boston: Little, Brown, 1988.

This is the first edition of a truly remarkable little book, which comes with a spiral binding and is small enough to fit into the pocket of a white coat.

It is not a multi-author book, but the work of just two authors. The book covers the whole of gastroenterology and hepatology in its 54 chapters – with appropriate Tables, illustrations, and references.

The authors say that 'we anticipate that this book will be particularly useful for medical students, resident physicians and physicians in family practice or general internal medicine' – I would agree.

R E POUNDER

Colour atlas of gastrointestinal pathology. By B C Morson. (Pp. 296; illustrated; £75.) London: Harvey Miller, 1988.

When asked to review this book I anticipated a series of photographs accompanied by appropriate descriptions. My expectations were greatly exceeded. Basil Morson has succeeded in producing a stimulating visual experience which is interwoven with a concise but comprehensive text.

The book is divided into seven chapters, each dealing with one region of the gastrointestinal tract. The normal anatomy and histology are reviewed, with illustrations, at the beginning of each chapter. Then follows a methodical, detailed presentation of the pathological entities of the region. Each illustration is prefaced by a summary incorporating theories of aetiology and pathogenesis, relevant clinical details, and morphological descriptions. In the 'Stomach' chapter he discusses the merits and demerits of the various approaches to the classification of gastric carcinoma. The chapter on the large intestine includes a useful discussion on the adenoma-carcinoma sequence and succinct tables delineating the pathological differences between ulcerative