

Books

Manual of nutritional therapeutics. By D H Alpers, E Ray, and W F Stenson. (Pp. 486; illustrated; £9.45.) Boston, Massachusetts: Little, Brown, 1988. This small volume is aimed at health care professionals involved in the clinical management of nutrition. Unlike many textbooks the authors have not restricted themselves to the practise of nutritional support, but clearly outline the pathophysiology underlying specific problems and the theoretical basis for correction of abnormalities. The text is well referenced throughout with sections of suggested reading at the end of each chapter. A chapter on obesity is a welcome addition to the second edition, as this is a subject all too frequently neglected elsewhere. The chapters on enteral and parenteral nutrition contain guidelines on practical techniques, although some of the points relating to enteral feeding seem a little outdated. There seems little point in quoting a paper nine years old, which describes adapting a central venous catheter for small bore feeding, and one suspects this slipped through the net from the first edition. Few clinicians would now support the use of TPN as primary therapy in Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. The description of the 'recently available three-in-one TPN infusion technique' emphasises the differences in practice between the USA and Europe, where such a technique has been in regular use for almost a decade. Quibbles apart, this book is a mine of information, and even includes an appendix detailing nutritional analyses of fast foods (UK readers will be dismayed to find no mention of a Wimpy). This book, competitively priced, will be of use to anyone involved in nutritional support, and would be invaluable for those seeking a comprehensive introduction to the subject.

D B A SILK

A practical approach to paediatric gastroenterology. By Joseph Levy. (Pp. 197; illustrated; price not stated.) London: Year Book Medical Publishers Ltd, Chicago, 1988.

This is an interesting book by a second generation paediatric gastroenterologist. Now that paediatric gastroenterology is coming of age the literature is rapidly expanding and this practical book is to be

recommended to trainees interested in this subject. Its approach is often synoptic but it is very welcome. This book has the great virtue of being a single author text and as a result has a uniformity of style and a clarity of purpose as well as being very practical. It gives a brief resumé, where appropriate, of basic mechanisms. A useful brief bibliography for each chapter is given to encourage further reading in depth on the topic covered. There are, however, clear differences from British practice as the concepts of cow's milk sensitive enteropathy and cow's milk colitis are not to be found here and the indication for small intestinal biopsy seem largely concerned with coeliac disease. These criticisms really reflect differences in practice across the Atlantic and should not detract from what is a very useful practical book, albeit written for American rather than British practice. It is a useful introduction to the subject and should encourage the reader to go on to enjoy larger texts with more substance.

J A WALKER-SMITH

Books received

Clinical progress in nutrition research Edited by A Sitges-Serra, A Sitges-Creus, and S Schwartz-Riera. (Pp. 282; illustrated; £53.20.) Basel: S Karger, 1988.

1988 Yearbook of diagnostic radiology Edited by D G Bragg. (Pp. 524; illustrated; £35.50.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1988.

New trends in ulcer disease By F Di Mario, G Battaglia, and F Vianello. (Pp. 314; illustrated; 50,000 Lira.) Padua: Piccin Nuova Libreria, 1988.

Retroperitoneum and intestine By K C Suen. (Pp. 214; illustrated; £44.75.) New York: Igaku-Shoin, 1987.

A colour atlas of human anatomy By R M H McMimm and R T Hutchings. (Pp. 358; illustrated; £29.50.) London: Wolfe Medical, 1988.

Correction

The symbols for the Figure of the article by Wyke, Edwards and Allan (*Gut* 1988; 29: 1229-35) should have read:

- panproctocolectomy and ileostomy (n=41);
- colectomy and ileorectal anastomosis (n=20);
- resections of segments of bowel (n=26).