

given at the end of each subsection, which is very helpful when reading. I can fully recommend this excellent textbook, which presents a state-of-the-art picture of radiology today as practised, particularly in the North American continent. It should be in the library of every large diagnostic radiology department.

HEATHER B NUNNERLEY

1986 Yearbook of digestive diseases Edited by N J Greenberger and F G Moody. (Pp. 471; illustrated; £41.00.) Chicago and London: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc, 1986.

When I encountered the *Year book of digestive diseases* for the first time last year, I was favourably impressed, and my comments were recorded in these columns. Before opening the successor volume, I wondered whether further acquaintance with the joint work of Drs Greenberger and Moody might temper my enthusiasm. In the event, not so. The editors have again selected 250 papers out of a total of the 10000 that they reviewed. Each paper is presented in summary form, and accompanied by an editorial comment; in many cases, key Figures or Tables are also included. The selection covers the entire range of gastroenterology (including hepatology) and spans the world literature. There is an understandable American bias in the selection of topics; surgery for morbid obesity, duodenal ulcer, and gastro-oesophageal reflux as well as nutrition perhaps receive more attention than might be the case in a European selection, but the difference is unimportant. What is important is the scholarship involved as exemplified by the concise, critical and constructive comments of the authors. One slight cause for concern is that although each section starts with a chapter on 'Physiology or pathophysiology', no papers published in physiological journals have been included. Does this mean that the authors did not read any such journals? Or does it mean that papers in physiological journals lack clinical relevance? If, as I suspect, the latter is the case, this is a worrying trend.

The publishers have produced a well made book with good print quality and excellent layout, but there is no denying that it is expensive. Is it a luxury item? I think not. It allows the busy gastroenterologist to keep up with the specialty on a broad front. Because it deals only with what is new, the reader is not buying – as he would with a new edition of a textbook – a lot of material with which he is already familiar. The combination of a physician and a surgeon as editors not only acknowledges the fusion of the two disciplines within the one specialty but also broadens the appeal of the book. I recall (possibly

incorrectly) reading a book by Patrick Campbell entitled 'A short trot with a cultured mind'. This book is a short trot with two cultured minds, and as such an exercise should be, it is informative and invigorating.

DAVID WINGATE

News

Digestive Disease Week, New Orleans 1988: AGA/GRG Basic Science Short Course

A one day didactic course on neural mechanisms in the gastrointestinal tract will be held during DDW on 14 May 1988. For further information, contact Charles Slack Inc, Executive Secretary, American Gastroenterological Association, Thorofare, New Jersey 08086, USA.

Reduced subscription for trainees

Gut is available at a reduced rate of £48 per annum to bona fide trainees in gastroenterology in the areas of basic science, medicine, surgery, pathology or radiology. The reduced subscription rate will be available for one year in the first instance and a fresh application will be needed for any subsequent year, up to a total of three years. The offer does not apply to members of the BSG. Trainees should be of registrar or senior registrar status, or equivalent. Application forms are available from The Subscription Dept, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. (Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)