

centre in New York has much to teach us in this country where patients are becoming more knowledgeable and anxious to discuss the arguments for and against different policies of treatment. Dr Janowitz's advice is always balanced and based not only on his own experience but on a wide knowledge of the literature. There is a striking identity of view between his opinions and current practice in Britain; it is heartening that over one third of the references in his selected bibliography come from this country and almost half from Europe.

It is refreshing to read a short well produced book in which the author is free to express his own opinions. Anyone who has to advise and treat patients with inflammatory bowel disease, whether as a physician or surgeon, cannot fail to learn something new from this book and, more important, gain an insight, into the warm, sympathetic, and yet incisive approach of a great clinician.

J E LENNARD-JONES

**Water movement through lipid bilayers, pores, and plasma membranes** By A Finkelstein. (Pp. 228; £38.45.) Chichester: John Wiley, 1987.

This short book is a monograph in the Wiley Interscience Distinguished Lecture series of the Society of General Physiologists. It concentrates primarily on the theoretical basis for water movement across membranes and there is very little discussion of transport across whole epithelia. The monograph is divided into three sections, the first concentrating on a theoretical framework for the examination of movement of water across membranes and deals with such topics as osmotic transport, unstirred layers, single file transport, and porous membranes. Part 2 describes experimental data obtained from artificial lipid bilayers and includes the effects of the polyene antibiotics such as Nystatin and Amphotericin B which have the ability to render membranes much more permeable to anions and Gramicidin A, an antibiotic which renders membranes permeable to cations. These activities are probably responsible for their antibacterial and antifungal activity but in the context of membrane transport they provide useful tools for studies on ion and water permeability. The final section deals with data on permeability derived from biological membranes and includes a short section on epithelial transport but concentrates primarily on the toad urinary bladder and on the red cell membrane.

The book is written in a lively and interesting manner. The large amount of theoretical discussion is made easily understandable and although not exhaustive and not intended specifically for gastro-

enterologists, the monograph is a useful introduction for researchers entering the field of gastrointestinal epithelial transport. Much is currently being written about intestinal 'permeability' and this book also helps clarify what permeability is and what it is not.

LESLIE TURNBERG

**Clinics in gastroenterology 14:2** Edited by T A S Buist. (Pp. 192; illustrated; £13.50.) E Sussex: W B Saunders, 1986.

This book is an excellent collection of short essays by distinguished authors and covers vascular procedures in gastrointestinal radiology, interventional radiology of the biliary tract, and percutaneous biopsy and abscess drainage.

All of the chapters are well written but one or two of them are disappointingly short and fail to give the depth of coverage needed to be of practical value. The chapter on percutaneous abscess drainage is particularly short considering the authors' extensive experience in this field.

There are a few omissions which would have been of interest to the general reader. Pancreatic interventional procedures receive almost no coverage. The role of percutaneous pancreatography, catheter drainage of pseudocysts and management of pancreatic abscesses merit inclusion. Percutaneous cholecystostomy and gastrostomy are important new techniques which escape mention.

On the whole this is a well written and up to date review of interventional radiology in gastroenterology and is a useful contribution to the literature.

W R LEES

**Practical laparoscopy** by G Berci and A Cuschieri. (Pp. 182; illustrated; £19.50.) London: Baillière Tindall, 1986.

Despite the popularity of laparoscopy in continental Europe it has never really caught on with British gastroenterologists. This is a pity because the technique has so much to offer especially in the management of liver disease. *Practical laparoscopy* the British and American authors state is an introductory manual which emphasises the technique and practical use of laparoscopy. In this they have succeeded and their book will undoubtedly help to popularise laparoscopy. The book is compact, easy to read, and well illustrated. Its contents include how to set up the instruments, comprehensive accounts of numerous laparoscopic procedures, documentation, and even emergency gynaecological laparoscopy. Most importantly it abounds with practical advice