the use of oral bile acid therapy, mechanical and contact solvent dissolution by the experts in each field. There is well balanced discussion of the implications of new non-surgical approaches to gall stone disease, predictions about the future of these techniques and a final section on the number of manufacturers of lithotripters with helpful technical details.

Overall this is an excellent summary of the place and the results of gall stone lithotripsy in its many forms and will no doubt form the first of a series of such publications resulting from future international symposia.

This is essential reading for any clinician, investigator, basic scientist or medical administrator currently who are likely to be involved with the non-surgical management of patients with gall stone disease. This book heralds the beginning of a new era in gall stone treatment.

D L CARR-LOCKE

Martindale: The extra pharmacopeia (29th ed). Edited by J E F Reynolds. (Pp. 1896; not illustrated; £95.) London: The Pharmaceutical Press, 1989.

At 1896 pages, the 29th Martindale is slightly shorter than its predecessor; taking into account the activity of the pharmaceutical industry during that time, it is

clear that there must have been some skilful editing by Dr Reynolds and his team. The British gastroenterologist will find every drug in his armamentarium in these pages including omeprazole, famotidine, nizatidine, and cisapride, but also drugs that for one reason or another, have not reached this country such as alizopride, bromopride, and clebopride. But you don't use Martindale to read about the drugs that you use; it is here that you can find out about the drugs of which you know little or nothing, and there is no comparable reference source known to this reviewer. It is not just a comprehensive compendium, it is a work of considerable scholarship. There is now an electronic version of the book which will appeal to some, and will be useful for updates. For others, no keyboard and screen can compensate for a book as well produced as this; the weight of information requires india paper and a small typeface, but it is legible throughout. If computers had preceded books, the luxury of turning pages as well produced as this would have seemed a revolutionary advance on the clackety-clack of the keyboard and the inane interrogation of interactive programmes. There's no need to recommend a work as established as this, but it's a pleasure to do so.

DAVID WINGATE