

a medical research project; science is all. This may explain a 73 page chapter on gastrointestinal hormones which contains almost nothing that any clinician needs to know, although doubtless many things that a clinical scientist should know. Ten Italians have been imported from Bologna to write two relatively short chapters on the management and clinical aspects of inflammatory bowel disease; presumably a task too intellectually demeaning for an American at this point in time. The structure of the American book is orthodox, with chapters devoted to different organs, to cancer, endoscopy and nutrition, leaving the onus of deciding what to report on the individual contributors.

In the UK, on the other hand, we are deeply into clinical strategies and cost benefit analysis; we will clutch at any new straw if it might help to balance our wretched management budgets. The emphasis in the Pounder book is on the trendy – lasers, campylobacter, cancer and the elderly. The editorial input is much more ‘up front’, as clearly the content of the book is dictated by the choice of topics. This gives the book a feeling which is at the same time both more topical and more ephemeral. Here basic science is not spread, like butter, evenly throughout, but comes in discrete chunks (the peel in Frank Cooper’s Oxford marmalade?) with chapters on such matters as molecular genetics and colonic physiology, while one on veterinary gastroenterology also caters for the more adventurous moonlighter. An important feature is a helpful index to the year’s output of review articles, for which every registrar struggling to prepare a case for presentation should be truly grateful.

Both books suffer from indifferent prose; it isn’t easy to write a review of the literature which will keep the reader awake, but some of the authors don’t even seem to be trying. Try this as a sample: ‘Understanding constipation was once very simple, but that is no longer true, although treatment remains a problem.’ In the UK team, Ian Forgacs deserves commendation for bucking the trend towards verbal tedium, while, for the US, David Lieberman manages to convey the excitement of the new developments in endoscopy.

Which book? My penchant towards physiology and pathophysiology led me to predict that I would opt for the US volume, but in the event, I found the UK book a better guide to what seems to matter to us just now.

Why not both books? One answer is cost; these books appear every year, and they don’t get any cheaper. Probably the major determinant is time; people who don’t have time to follow the journals will be unlikely to have time to read both of these books or, for that matter, even one of them. Which would be a pity.

DAVID WINGATE

Therapeutic nutrition – a practical guide. By C R Pennington. (Pp. 278; illustrated; £13.95.) London: Chapman and Hall, 1988.

It is a pleasure to review a book which targets a particular audience and achieves just the right level of information for that readership. This book is aimed at senior medical undergraduates above all, and gives a remarkably complete overview of nutrition as seen from the viewpoint of a British medical school. Dr Pennington has contrived to combine effectively the practical and the theoretical, though throughout, the emphasis appropriately is on the practical. The book is in eight principle sections covering physiology and biochemistry, diet and nutritional requirements, malnutrition, enteral nutrition, parenteral nutrition, nutrition in disease, diet and disease and drugs and nutrition. Inevitably in a short book such as this, the style is didactic, but each chapter is adequately referenced. One area that I should have liked to have seen included was a section on dietary assessment, because it seems to me that medical students and doctors should understand the problems of the techniques used by their dietitian colleagues and therefore use such assessments with an appropriate knowledge of inherent inaccuracies. This would enable a more critical approach to publish dietary survey data. All in all this is a very good and useful introductory book to nutrition.

D J POWELL-TUCK

Techniques in therapeutic endoscopy. By J D Waye, J E Geenen, D Fleischer, and R P Venu. (Pp. 80; illustrated; £39.50.) New York: Gower Medical, 1988.

This is a short, excellently illustrated book. It gives a very clear description of how to perform some of the commonly used therapeutic methods in gastrointestinal endoscopy.

Its American authors are well known as excellent lecturers and teachers on their topics and the material here is packaged so that it can be used readily for teaching and is published as an alternative format as a slide atlas of techniques of therapeutic endoscopy. Luckily, I was only sent the book format for review: I still feel guilty about using other people’s slides for teaching so I have escaped this temptation. The reproductions of endoscopic photographs are above average quality. The colour illustrations by Susan C Tilberry are of a clear comic strip quality; better than Beano and nearly as good as the best in Eagle.

The book covers therapy for gastrointestinal bleeding, sclerotherapy for varices, dilatation, prosthesis placement and thermal palliative treatment for GI cancer, percutaneous gastrostomy, endoscopic sphincterotomy and management of biliary tract obstruction and polypectomy. It is practical and

attractive to read. I have only a few disagreements with the authors' recommendations. For example, I find it difficult, dangerous and worst of all unhelpful to try to roll the patient over with an endoscope in the stomach if there is a lot of blood on the greater curve in order to move the blood out of the way (it is more helpful to increase the inflation of the stomach and to increase the head down tilt). When treating vascular malformations I try to identify the central feeding vessel and aim to hit that with the first pulse rather than treating peripherally first (as for ulcers) because the delicate vascular malformations usually bleed during treatment making subsequent aiming difficult once bleeding has started.

Recommended. I feel almost guilty at actually enjoying reading this textbook.

PAUL SWAIN

News

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1990

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1990 Award. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1990 but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of

the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting of the Society at the University of Warwick in 1990. Applications (15 COPIES) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4LB, BY 1 DECEMBER 1989.

Therapy with Amino Acids and Analogues

The first International Congress will be held in Vienna, 7–12 August 1989. Details from Gert Lubec, MD, University of Vienna, Dept of Paediatrics, A 1090 Vienna, Währinger Gurtel 18, Austria.

The Leeds Gastroenterology Course for Radiologists

To be held at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, from 10–14 July, 1989. Applications to Miss Pat Kentley, Level 7, Worsley Medical Building, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

Corrections

Confusion has arisen on p 462 on the article by Kelleher and Kagnoff (*Gut* 1989; **30**). The text above and below the formula should be read as separate entities.

A mistake occurred in the book review by Arie J Zuckerman on p 423 (*Gut* 1989; **29**). Sentence should read 'An enormous literature has accumulated on the subject since the discovery of Australia antigen in 1965–68'.