

Do not be misled by the title. Buy this book and you will be updated not only on the stomach but also cephalad to gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and caudad to the duodenum. This range and grouping is sensible: perhaps the next edition could borrow my 1981 neologism 'Foregut'.

Of the 36 authors, 26 come from the three countries of the editors – Sweden (5), Britain (10), and the USA (11). The others are from Finland, Germany, Italy, Canada and The Netherlands. But even a Scottish publisher should know that Ulm is in Germany, not Sweden.

The seven scientific chapters are excellent, polished from similar reviews elsewhere. But I had problems with many of the clinical chapters. The preface claims, boldly and I believe correctly, three major advances in stomach disorders – the major cause of gastritis is *Helicobacter pylori* whose eradication prevents ulcer recurrence and 'cures' the disease; endoscopic haemostasis is effective; the proton pump inhibitor has for the first time made achlorhydria available as a practical therapy. Alas, not all the authors, or even the editors, accept these theses. The reader suffers from overlap with repetition, contradiction, omission or inadequate advice on how to eradicate *H pylori*, how to stop bleeding endoscopically, and how to use omeprazole in gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and ulcers.

Perhaps publishers of such books should choose one editor who writes none of the chapters but selects authors for their wisdom not their nationality and ensures the reader is educated into a better informed decision maker.

JH BARON

Pocket consultant. Gastroenterology. By S P L Travis, R H Taylor, J J Misiewicz. (Pp 425; illustrated; £14.95.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1991.

This splendid little book aims to provide a practical background in gastroenterology for junior hospital staff on the wards, in clinics, and for family doctors in their surgeries. The aims are very well met, although better met for hospital staff than for family doctors I fancy.

It is not so little at that. There are 369 pages with 13 chapters including separate chapters on alimentary emergencies, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, nutrition, procedures and investigations, as well as standard chapters on organ oriented disease. There are 16 pages of useful information (addresses and telephone numbers of drug information services throughout the UK, hospice information services, and patient support groups, etc), a reading list and even a prototype record sheet for patients with IBD. Each chapter is well laid out, user friendly and well endowed with tables, algorithms, illustrative x rays with explanatory line drawings and diagrams.

Topics are presented in a robust, distinctive fashion with commendable emphasis on decision making. The approach to each major

problem includes clinical diagnosis (how patients present, what to look for, what to ask), how diagnosis can be confirmed (what investigations are required, in what order and what information they may provide), management principles including medical and surgical options, drug treatments (which drug, how much, for how long, expected benefits, and possible side effects), what clinical events to expect or look out for, and what outcomes to be expected; factual background information is provided to help in 'explaining' a disease to the patient or relatives. The advice throughout is clear, helpful, and unambiguous, and though perforce dogmatic, reflects generally accepted opinions.

There are some unimportant nits to pick. The book was in press before omeprazole was licensed for long term use, so that its importance in the long term management of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease is not credited; there is no reference that I can see to the effects of sulphasalazine on male fertility, and pancreatic insufficiency appears to be credited as the commonest cause of steatorrhea (surely not?).

More importantly, the value of psychiatry/psychotherapy or even plain counselling in the management of functional gastrointestinal disorders gets little attention. But this is a very good buy, a vade-mecum, and valuable support resource for our juniors. Every unit should have a copy, and membership candidates would do well to use it for revision. Family doctors will find it helpful, for occasional reference.

G P CREAN

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NOTES

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1993

Applications are invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1993 Award. Applications (15 copies) should include:

- (1) A manuscript (2 A4 pages *only*) describing the work conducted.
- (2) A bibliography of relevant personal publications.

(3) An outline of the proposed content of the lecture, including title.

(4) A written statement confirming that all or a substantial part of the work has been personally conducted in the United Kingdom or Eire.

The award consists of a medal and a £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1993 but need not be a member of the BSG. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Spring Meeting of the Society in 1993. Applications (15 copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB by 1 December 1992.

American Association for the study of Liver Diseases postgraduate course

The Annual Postgraduate Course, Newer Aspects on Alcohol, Nutrition and Hepatic Encephalopathy, will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago, Illinois from 31 October – 1 November 1992. The postgraduate course will be followed by the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases on 2–3 November 1992. Further information from the Registration Manager, SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, New Jersey 08086–9447, USA (Tel: 609–848–1000).

Postgraduate Gastroenterology Course 1993

The 1993 Oxford Postgraduate Course in Gastroenterology will be held from 3–6 January 1993. Further information from Dr D P Jewell, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford OX2 6HE (Tel: 0865 224829).

International Organisation for Statistical Studies on Diseases of the Oesophagus

The 4th International Congress will be held in Paris from 1–3 September 1993. Further information from Michèle Liegeon, 2 boulevard du Montparnasse, 75015 Paris (Tel: 331 45 66 91 15; fax: 331 45 66 50 72).

World Association of HPB Surgery

The 1st European Congress on Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery will take place at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris from 8–11 June 1993. Further information can be obtained from EHPBS Congress Secretariat, Congress House, 65 West Drive, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey SM2 7NB.

II United European Gastroenterology Week

This will take place from 19 to 24 July 1993 in Barcelona, Spain. Further information and abstract forms from Prof J R Malagelada, c/o UNICONGRESS, Calle Calvet 55–57 (4th floor), 08021 Barcelona, Spain (Tel: 34 3 414 03 22; fax: 34 3 414 02 51).