This slim book is written primarily for trainees in endoscopy to fill some of the gaps found in all training programmes. In this, it undoubtedly succeeds though whether it will appeal to the wider audience hoped for by the author is in doubt. John Baillie’s friendly, avuncular, and sometimes humorous style is a great help. Sadly, I who have experienced. This book is not for the casual reader. It is a gold mine of information and the detailed referencing will be invaluable to the clinical investigator. Some of the chapters are hard going, largely because of a failure to write elegant English. My other criticism is that virtually every cell, protein, mediator or substance is abbreviated ab initio. A list of abbreviations (with definitions) is given at the back but I looked through the book twice before finding it – at least there was suspense before finding what a FLAP was! Nevertheless, the book is well produced, well illustrated with line diagrams and experimental data, and provides excellent in depth reviews. My review copy is likely to disappear rapidly into the briefcases of eager research fellows.

D P JEWELL


These volumes represent a magnificent achievement and follow in the tradition set by its classic predecessor written by Professor John Goligher. It should not be regarded as the next edition of a previous text, even if it uses the same title, but an excellent new creation by Michael Keighley and Norman Williams.

Coloproctology is now emerging as a specialty, a multidisciplinary specialty, and so the question has to be asked whether one or two authors can hope to cover all the subject matter. While the authors have covered much of the ground themselves they have assembled a small team of appropriate experts to assist them and so recognise the difficulty. On this occasion the experts cover other relevant disciplines such as genitourinary medicine, urology, gynaecology, tropical disorder and paediatrics. In a subsequent editions physicians, radiologists, clinical geneticists, and histopathologists will probably be required as the text will inevitably need to cover the surgically driven specialty as a whole rather than be devoted to surgical aspects only. Such recruitment will strengthen the weaker areas.

These general comments must not detract from the immense worth of these two volumes (they weigh 16 lb!). Not only are they well researched and referenced but they are also pleasingly written with good illustrations and detailed index. Of particular value are the chapters on functional problems and the surgical techniques for inflammatory bowel disease. The postscript on laparoscopic tech- niques is also excellent with its cautionary critique.

There is no doubt that these volumes will be used by many in this country and overseas and greatly assist in the promotion of coloproctology as a specialty. The authors deserve congratulations and it is to be hoped that they will be rewarded in its sales. They have laid an excellent foundation for the future.

J P S THOMSON

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NOTES

European venture

The North of England Gastroenterology Society has created a European Venture Fund through donations from industry to support younger members presenting original work at European meetings. Three travelling Fellowships were awarded in 1993 to Dr Mark Cotterill of Leigh Infirmary, Mr Thomas Wright of the Royal Liverpool Hospital, and Miss Tasmin Greenwell of the Northern General Hospital. Their work was well received and stimulated much discussion. The Society plans to continue to support its younger members in this way.

Corrections

An error occurred in this paper by Dr Bart Maes et al (Gut 1994; 35: 333–7). The symbols in Figure 2 should have been $\alpha=$ after erythromycin, $\tau=$ normal, $\Delta=$ after propantheline.

An editorial error occurred in this paper by Dr Bjorn Ostensen et al (Gut 1994; 35: 382–70). The fourteenth line in the abstract should have read peripheral blood lymphocytes (not lamina propria lymphocytes).