Clinical Problems in Gastroenterology.

There are a number of questions that a book reviewer has to address before getting very far into a book. Perhaps, most obviously, the most obvious is to be determined to what extent the author – but far more probably these days, the authors – succeed in attracting their (usually declared) intended readership. Life becomes more tricky when the preface manages to escape without explaining at whom the book is directed.

Rhodes and Tsai have tried ‘to structure this book according to clinical problems as they appear to the reader’ (p 1). Although the demarcation between physician and trainee is becoming very well defined in this country, I feel sure the authors cannot hope to attract consultant readers as they have perhaps imagined. Most trainees will be to determine to what extent the author – but far more probably these days, the authors – succeed in attracting their (usually declared) intended readership. Life becomes more tricky when the preface manages to escape without explaining at whom the book is directed.

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I hope that trainees take the opportunity to study this book. It cannot have been very easy to write but there are plentiful illustrations. The publishers, Mosby-Wolfe, do seem very visual. Many gastroenterologists will recognise the format (and maybe some photos) from various recent atlases. I am all for breaking up dull prose with illustrations but I think Rhodes and Tsai write well. It seems to me a sign of growing up that one can manage to learn something from a book without too many pictures. Nowadays, from the reviewer’s perspective, too many authors are interested in many workers in the ‘vast’ Wolfe, I commend a sentence from the great gastroenterologist (and occasional playwright) who, in between clinical consultations, managed to write Hamlet (Act 2, scene 2) ‘… More matter with less art’

IAN FORGACS


The intestine is one of the most rapidly renewing tissues in the body and therefore must be treated; probably these days, the authors

BARRY JACKSON

NOTES

Liver disease

The XXII International Update on Liver Disease will be held at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London on 10–12 July 1997. Further details from: Professor Neil McIntyre, University Department of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG. Tel: 0171 794 0500 ext: 3969; Fax: 0171 830 2321.

UEGW

The 6th United European Gastroenterology Week will be held on 18–23 October 1997 in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Further information from Concorde Services Ltd, 10 Wendell Road, London W12 9BT, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 181 743 3106, Fax: +44 181 743 1010.