

a major feat of clear and succinct authorship. Moreover, each important fact of each section or subsection is highlighted by tabulating in italics, in the body of the text. And that, in my opinion, is one of the problems with the book. The only tiny note of controversy is a footnote to a Table on the 'physiological defects in patients with duodenal ulcer', which refers to just one of the defects as 'not found by all investigators'. Of course, there are lots of 'don't know' the reason for this and that, but no real indication that virtually all the italicised 'facts' show how incomplete is our information and understanding of all the facets of this subject. Indeed, each of the highlights would make an excellent discussion and research topic for keen young assistants in gastroenterological units. My second reservation is practical and concerns the quality of care, resulting from application of the management sections of the book. As with most American writings on ulcer diseases, the therapeutic sections, especially medical, are both factually and conceptually out of date – in the case of medical treatment because FDA regulations preclude up-to-dateness. To give one (perhaps not very important) example: while we have maintained patients on treatment with ranitidine for two years or more, the drug is not even mentioned in the book. Summarising: an excellent introduction to the topic of peptic ulceration.

K G WORMSLEY

Esophageal Manometry. Methods and Clinical Practice Thomas R Weibrauch. (Pp. 136. Illustrated. \$10.00.) Urban & Schwarzenberg: Baltimore, Munich. 1981.

The aim of this book is to provide practical details about the instrumentation, methodology, and application of clinical oesophageal manometry. This compact manograph of 150 pages is well illustrated and can be easily read and digested in a single evening. Despite its short length, the text is extremely informative, presents both sides of controversial issues, and includes a relevant list of current references. Two-thirds of the book give important details about manometric instrumentation and technique. The last 60 pages give brief coverage of some representative oesophageal motor disorders. Particularly well done are the chapters on 'Methods for esophageal manometry', 'Physics of intraluminal pressure recording', and 'Factors influencing pressure recording'.

A primer on intraluminal oesophageal manometry has been needed for some time and this book fills this role admirably. Also within the book's pages is some worthwhile information that may have

escaped the attention of those experienced in oesophageal manometry. In my opinion, this book will prove to be extremely helpful for all those who perform oesophageal manometry. I recommend it with considerable enthusiasm.

WYLIE J DODDS

Color Atlas of Liver Biopsy: a Clinical Pathological Guide By Pedro J Grases and Simon Beker G. (Pp. 271. Illustrated. \$98.25.) Alan R Liss: New York. 1981.

This book is an English translation of a work the rationale of which is to provide an 'on-the-job' training for pathologists in Spanish-speaking countries. The British pathologist, however, is more blasé and has a surfeit of picture books on the liver to improve his diagnostic acumen.

The lay-out is reminiscent of students' notes. Each disease is allotted two to three pages in semi-note form. This includes clipped phrases on clinical data, lists of laboratory tests, and postage stamp sized reproductions of radiographs, ultrasonography and CAT scans. There then follows a couple of paragraphs enlarging on the disease, its differential diagnosis and the pathology. One page carries quarter-plate eosinophilic microphotographs from the relevant liver biopsy. Throughout the book the photomicrographs are generally of high-power fields, so one is unable to appreciate the balance between lobular and portal morphology, which is important to histopathologists. I am not sure of the deeper meaning of the featureless silhouette of the human body, bar the hepatic outline, that accompanies each section.

Apart from the presentation of individual diseases there are notes on processing specimens, a glossary of terms, lists of hepatotoxic drugs, and references listed by disease.

I am sure that the book does fulfil a need in the unique market for which it is intended, but it would seem to have little usefulness in English-speaking countries when it is compared with its competitors.

ASHLEY B PRICE

Crohn's Workshop: A Global Assessment of Crohn's Disease Edited by Emanoel C G Lee. (Pp. 196. Illustrated. £16.50, DM91.) Heyden HM+M Publishers: London. 1981.

The topic of Crohn's disease continues to attract authors and organisers of conferences. Twenty years of visiting in South Africa have convinced Mr Emanoel Lee, the Oxford surgeon, that Crohn's disease has become more common in that country and it is no longer as rare a disorder as it was two