

mentary bleeding, histopathology interpretation, ERCP and laparoscopy.

This is the only book in the field with this scope and approach. It is worth more than its price and should be purchased not only by general and departmental libraries but by individual doctors concerned with alimentary endoscopy. Maximal advantage will accrue to those undergoing specialist training.

W. SIRCUS

**Stimulus-Secretion Coupling in the Gastrointestinal Tract** Edited by R. M. Case and H. Goebell. (Pp. 437; illustrated. £12.50.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1976. The conference on Stimulus-Secretion-Coupling in the Gastrointestinal Tract brought together a wide spectrum of interested specialists, ranging from biochemists and biophysicists to clinicians. The proceedings of the conference are divided into five sections, the first of which deals with the principles underlying stimulus-secretion coupling, ranging from receptors through intracellular messengers, including cyclic nucleotides and calcium, to the secretory mechanisms represented by microtubules and filaments. Subsequent sections deal with aspects of stimulus-secretion coupling in the specific secretory glands, including stomach, pancreas, salivary glands, and small intestine. For each of these glands examples or reviews outline the effect of hormones or other secretory stimulants on the secretory process as a whole and on the intracellular content of messenger nucleotides. Other studies provide information about the effect of individual intracellular messengers such as the cyclic nucleotides or calcium, on the secretory process of the different glands. The book closes with a review by Creutzfeldt of the problems of differentiating between the physiological and pharmacological action of hormones. These problems have not yet been resolved, perhaps in part because there is a tendency to consider in terms of 'hormone' all the peptides with biological action which modern biochemical techniques have isolated, and continue to isolate, from gastrointestinal mucosa. In his review Creutzfeldt also calls attention to a group of peptides which probably act locally on adjacent cells, and which are therefore considered to have 'paracrine' rather than typically widespread hormonal 'endocrine' effects. A particularly important aspect of this conference which is well brought out in the discussion after each paper is the constructive and creative

nature of the interaction between the participants with different expertise. All readers interested in the more fundamental aspects of one of the principal functions of the alimentary tract will benefit from reading this book. The editors and publishers are to be congratulated on the speed with which the proceedings have been published.

K. G. WORMSLEY

**British Medicine - A Monthly Guide to Current Literature** August 1976, vol. 5, no. 8; annual subscription £3.00. British Council: London. This deserves wider publicity and use as it is an invaluable reference to British publications, annual reports, both medical and administrative. Forthcoming medical congresses and meetings are listed and also the contents of the main British journals.

**Bran and High-Fibre Foods** By Neil S. Painter (Pp. 24; illustrated; 30p). Pennywise Publishing: Redhill, Surrey. 1976. This small booklet is a useful and practical guide for the general public. At 30p it could reach a wide public and housewives will find the recipes useful. It could be of special value for patients with diverticular disease.

**Esophageal Hiatus Hernia: Rationale and Results of Anatomic Repair** By Thomas Gahagan and Conrad R. Lam. (\$19.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. This book is a detailed presentation of an experience of nearly 600 operations for hiatal hernia. Their technique is essentially the reduction in the size of the hiatus by posterior approximation of the crural fibres and maximal utilisation of the phreno-oesophageal ligament for maintaining the oesophagogastric junction below the diaphragm. This technique has yielded results as good or better than more complicated fundoplication procedures. There has been a recurrence rate of less than 5% and problems of gastro-oesophageal reflux have been negligible. The authors have added a third type to the two well-recognised types—sliding and paraoesophageal. This added type, the infracardiac bursa hernia, differs from the other paraoesophageal hernias because it enters the chest through an opening to the right of the oesophagus (the pneumatoenteric recess or infracardiac bursa) and invariably comes to lie in the right pleural cavity.

**Acute Diarrhoea in Childhood** Ciba Foundation Symposium 42 (new series) (Price not stated.) North-Holland: Amsterdam. 1976. This symposium brings together for the first time the results of research into both bacterial diarrhoea and the newly recognised viral agents that produce a substantial proportion of cases of diarrhoea in infants and children. The book includes studies of invasive pathogens such as the shigellas and salmonellas: of the transmission of pathogenic characteristics by plasmids in *Escherichia coli*; of the nature of cholera toxin and its action at cellular and molecular levels; of intestinal immune responses in cholera toxoid immunization in dogs and in *E. coli* gastroenteritis in infants; of resistance factors such as iron-binding proteins in human milk; of viral diarrhoea in newborns, infants and children. The book will be of great interest to paediatric gastroenterologists.