

colitis and Crohn's disease. A wide range of conditions are beautifully illustrated including the spindle cell variant of oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma, parasitic infestations and visceral myopathy. The only notable exception is a description of intestinal graft versus host disease. Several useful diagrams are provided to aid the reader's understanding, for instance in the classification of early gastric carcinoma. The legends are comprehensive and impart to the reader a clear understanding of the histological appearances of the condition and many useful pointers in differential diagnosis.

On reaching the end of the final chapter one feels a sense of having read an illustrated textbook of gastrointestinal pathology rather than having browsed through an atlas. This book is highly recommended and should prove to be a useful addition to the personal library of pathologists and clinicians with an interest in gastroenterology.

N A WRIGHT

**Immunology of the gastrointestinal tract and liver.** Edited by M F Heyworth and A L Jones. (Pp. 241; illustrated; \$70.) New York: Raven Press, 1987.

During the past five years there have been a number of new texts on the immunology of the alimentary tract. Like all medium sized books in a rapidly developing field, they run the risk of being rapidly out of date. Texts face the additional dilemma of whether to focus primarily on basic immunological mechanisms in the gut and liver, or to attempt to bring order to the myriad of immunological studies in disease states. Heyworth and Jones in this text have opted primarily for the former which constitutes the first eight chapters and approximately 75% of the book. These chapters formally examine the role of T cells and other non-B lymphocytes, immunoglobulin producing cells, macrophages, mast cells together with excellent coverage of immune cell communication and trafficking. This first section of the book is completed by two excellent chapters on oral immunisation and tolerance and the genetic control of gut immune responses. In addition there is an excellent, albeit relatively brief account of immunological functions of the liver.

In the final 30 pages there is an attempt to explore the role of immunological mechanisms in intestinal and hepatic diseases. Although sceptics might argue that our understanding of the role of these processes in disease states is far from complete, despite an enormous body of published literature, the approach used in this text is not entirely satisfactory. Excessive emphasis is placed on immunological mechanisms in intestinal malignancy (19 pages, 153 references), whereas other diseases such as coeliac disease,

inflammatory bowel disease, chronic active hepatitis and primary biliary cirrhosis earn a substantially smaller slice of the cake (12 pages). These diseases are all discussed under the umbrella heading of 'autoimmunity', which is perhaps unwise because the aetiopathogenesis of many of the conditions discussed is unknown. This possible 'design fault', however, in no way detracts from what is otherwise an excellent and apparently closely edited text with very little overlap between chapters. The editors have assembled a group of internationally renowned experts who do credit to themselves and to the book as a whole.

M FARTHING

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## Books received

**Maladies inflammatoires de l'intestin** Edited by R Modigliani. (Pp. 274; illustrated; 290 F.) Paris: Doin, 1988.

**Computing for clinicians** By T Chard. (Pp. 144; illustrated; £18.) London: Elmore-Chard, 1988.

**H<sub>1</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> histamine receptors** Edited by G A Settignano. (Pp. 171; illustrated; price not stated.) Rhode Island: Oceanside Publications, 1988.

**La mucoviscidose** Edited by G Lenoir. (Pp. 208; illustrated; 182 F.) Paris: Doin, 1988.

**Magnesium in general practice** By J Durlach. (Pp. 360; illustrated; £35.) London: John Libbey, 1988.

**Comparative nutrition** Edited by Sir K Blaxter and I Macdonald. (Pp. 264; illustrated; £24.) London: John Libbey, 1988.

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## News

### Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1989

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1989 Award. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1989 but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been done in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting of the Society in Bradford in 1989. Applications (15 COPIES) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4LB, by 1 December 1988.