from this lofty elevation sufficient knowledge is available to answer these questions.

Despite these difficulties the book covers the field extremely well and although there is sometimes an unnecessary intrusion of sociological jargon most of the authors' contributions are readable and to some extent novel. The book is well worth reading for those who wish to get the feel of transcultural psychiatry as a discipline within the field of mental illness. The authors might have been served better if the book had been printed in larger type and on better quality paper. At a price of £29 this degree of economy was probably unnecessary.

Peter J Tyrer
Mapperley Hospital,
Nottingham NG3 6AA.

The Troubled Gut: the Causes and Consequences of Diarrhoea, Bryan Brooke. Pp. 172, illustrated. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. Distributed by Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1986. £7.50.

This book on diarrhoea is primarily for non-medical readers. It is written in three sections. The first describes normal intestinal function, and the mechanisms whereby diarrhoea may develop. The infective diarrhoeas are considered in some detail and ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease in greater detail. Gluten sensitivity, the irritable bowel syndrome, diverticular disease and cancer receive passing mention only.

The second and third sections cover the treatment of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, and possible aetiological factors. The reader gains much from Professor Brooke's wide experience over many years in the management of these conditions. There is a useful glossary of medical terms used in the text.

The non-medical reader will find much to interest him in this book – not only about the physiology and pathology of the gut, but also glimpses of medical history, haematology, bacteriology and immunology. Patients unfortunate enough to suffer from inflammatory bowel disease, and also their relatives and friends, will be helped in their understanding of the affliction. Doctors too, increasingly criticized for their failure to communicate adequately with their patients, will benefit from reading Professor Brookes' lucid explanations of medical complexities in a simple, conversational style.

I was disappointed that little is said about diet and disease – frequently the topic of questions from patients – and I thought more use could have been made of diagrams. These are minor criticisms of a book which is well worth reading, and should help to achieve the aim stated in the preface, to break the taboo of silence surrounding the subject of diarrhoea. I hope the title proves gripping enough to attract the general reader.

J.M. Temperley,
Royal Preston Hospital,
P.O. Box 66,
Sharoe Green Lane,
Preston PR2 4NG.

Books Received

Affective Disorders in the Elderly, edited by Elaine Murphy. Medicine in Old Age Series. Pp. viii + 235, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York. 1986. £28.00.

Anesthesia in Obstetrics: Maternal, Fetal, and Neonatal Aspects. Second edition, George A. Albright, James E. Ferguson, Thomas H. Joyce and David K. Stevenson. Pp. xviii + 622, illustrated. Butterworths, Boston, London, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1986. £65.00.

Annual Review of Microbiology. Vol. 40, 1986, edited by L. Nicholas Ornston, Albert Balows and Paul Baumann. Pp. xii + 712, illustrated. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, California, 1986. \$31.00 (USA), \$34.00 (elsewhere). Prices include postage and handling.

British Medical Bulletin. Vol. 42, No. 3, July 1986. **Endoscopic Surgery**, edited by R.A. Miller and J.E.A. Wickham. Pp. 221–339, illustrated. Published by Churchill Livingstone for The British Council, 1986. £16.00.

The Cambridge Diet: a Manual for Practitioners, John Marks and Alan Howard. Pp. viii + 112, illustrated. MTP Press, Lancaster, Boston, The Hague, Dordrecht, 1986. £12.50 (hardback).

Clinics in Haematology. Vol. 15, no. 1, Feb. 1986. **Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation**, edited by Anthony H. Goldstone. Pp. x + 272, illustrated. W.B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1986. £15.00.

Copeman's Textbook of the Rheumatic Diseases. 2 vols. Sixth edition, edited by J.T. Scott. Pp. xxx + 1665, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £150.00.

Gastric Carcinoma, edited by M. Isabel Filipe and Jeremy R. Jass. Current Problems in Tumour Pathology Series. Pp. viii + 297, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £40.00.

Geriatric Anesthesia: Principles and Practice, edited by C.R. Stephen and Richard A.E. Assaf. Pp. viii + 376, illustrated.