remaining forty-five pages? The index takes up nine and the glossary fourteen (both useful in any technical volume) but there is an extraordinary Appendix of twenty-two pages containing complex mathematical formulae and concepts. This Appendix has no relevance at all to the book or to the reader.

The overall reaction to this book was one of disappointment. But at least the reviewer now understands how many of his examiners must have felt over the years. The book is rather like the average candidate's essay: basically inoffensive but containing too little of substance relative to the question.

Much of this book is 'packing'. It is difficult to understand why it was written at all. Many radiologists would, as I, be attracted and excited by the title but the title is misleading and leads to disappointment. I cannot recommend the book.

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Gastroenterology Revision. Illustrated Case Histories and MCQs. Robin A. Bradbear, C. Bryan Campbell and Lawrie W. Powell. Pp.201, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £7.95.

This clear, concise, pocket-sized book describes 20 gastroenterological case histories presented in step-wise manner with multiple choice questions interspersed throughout the text. It aims both to examine basic knowledge of diseases and to encourage the application of problem-solving principles in their investigation and management.

The authors are to be congratulated in including in a book of this size all the most important aspects of gastroenterology as major case histories whilst covering many less common disorders in the discussions relating to each case. There is an emphasis towards disease affecting the liver (eight cases) and upper gastrointestinal tract (six) with less stress upon the small and large intestine and pancreas. There is little mention of motility disorders, infective enteritides, vascular disease of the bowel and that very common disorder, the irritable bowel syndrome; whilst some discussion of non-gastroenterological diseases presenting with abdominal symptoms might have been useful. By its very nature this book is didactic rather than discursive and, inevitably, there arise minor points of personal disagreement with the views expressed. Nevertheless, the authors always provide reasoned explanation and justification for their de-

cisions and selected references are included for further reading.

Despite these minor reservations, the authors have produced an excellent revision of basic gastroenterology, presented in both an entertaining and thought-provoking manner. Its format allows this book to be read either in brief spells as hasty revision, or at leisure when conscientious study will provide much important information. Although slightly overpriced, I would recommend this book to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Even consultant gastroenterologists might find it useful as alternative teaching material.

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Manual of Pediatric Anesthesia, Second edition, David J. Steward. Pp.xiv + 377. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £24.00.

This excellent pocket size book more than achieves its stated aims, which are to discuss important features of the anatomy and physiology of paediatric patients, to present the principles of paediatric anaesthetic management, and to describe techniques of anaesthesia for specific procedures. Every aspect is concisely, yet comprehensively described. At the end of each section is a list of references for additional reading, which together with the large number of facts in the book, must make this one of the most comprehensive sources of information on paediatric anaesthesia and intensive care. A large table in appendix I lists 239 syndromes and disorders with brief notes on the anaesthetic implications. Other appendices include doses of drugs used in anaesthesia, and the management of resuscitation and cardiac arrest in infants and children. Practical and safe advice is given on the management of anaesthesia for all types of paediatric surgery, with comprehensive sections on neurosurgery, cardiac surgery, renal failure, and burns and trauma. It is unfortunate that this edition does not mention the newer muscle relaxants atracurium and vecuronium, although there is considerable information on the use of isoflurane in children. The anaesthetic management of minor surgical procedures in infants using a mask and inhalation agents sounds deceptively easy, and although no doubt safe when taught in the environment of a major children's hospital, emphasises the fact that this book is most valuable when used in