whole of the gastrointestinal tract. In this latest volume Dr Roy Pounder has abandoned this comprehensive approach to produce an entertaining but erudite review of some of the growing points in gastroenterology.

The recent appearance of the bi-monthly journal *Current Opinion in Gastroenterology* which is thoughtfully provided free for most gastroenterologists by a drug firm may have forced his hand somewhat in that over a two-year period that journal reviews the whole of new papers concerning the gut and liver and to retain the previous format of 'recent advances' would have been consequent duplication. The result is a highly readable textbook.

Several areas of research are covered including the role of therapeutic agents in peptic ulceration and dyspepsia and the possibility for the future.

Professor Langman gives an impeccable if somewhat cynical review of upper gastrointestinal bleeding which again demonstrates the difficulty of organizing trials in this difficult field.

The 'gay bowel' is highly topical and can be guaranteed to fill any postgraduate lecture hall at any time of the year! There is also a mini-review of veterinary gastroenterology which shows that vets are often way ahead of the doctors in their diagnostic approach to disease but I would have liked to have seen more discussion in this part of the book on the relevance of animal to human disease.

Advances in paediatric gastroenterology are covered and the chapter on the pancreas by Joan Braganza is as comprehensive and up to date as anything I have read. For those not in the field however this could make heavy reading.

A lengthy chapter on CT scanning of the abdomen is welcome but could be improved by a judicious use of arrows on the radiographs. We are all familiar with CT scanning but those of us in district general hospitals may not see these images every day.

Virginia Allen-Jones and John Hunter present the controversial subject of food intolerance which unusually is not headed 'Food allergy'. This is a very restrained and useful account of evidence for and against food intolerance in disorders of the gut and particularly inflammatory bowel disease and the irritable bowel.

The book concludes with a full index and second index of more than 600 recent leaders and reviews covering all aspects of gastroenterology. It will be a very useful source of material for doctors who are presenting papers and cases at clinical meetings which is innovative and comprehensive. This is a most welcome *Recent Advances in Gastroenterology* and the new format does credit to the editor.

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Routine Cytological Staining Techniques: Theoretical Background and Practice, Mathilde E. Boon and Johanna S. Drijver. Pp. xi + 238, illustrated. Macmillan, Basingstoke, 1986. £25.00 (hardback), £10.95 (paperback).

Good cytodiagnosis is dependent on consistent, high quality preparation and staining of specimens, and although every

laboratory grows accustomed to its own artifacts this should not be an excuse for sub-optimal slides.

This book aims to provide insight into the mechanisms of routine staining processes so that they can be used effectively, and it certainly succeeds. Some chapters address the general principles of staining and fixation and then the specific issues of nuclear and cytoplasmic stains. The section on preparing cytological slides is particularly helpful and is illustrated with very clear diagrams. The instructions are clear and easy to follow, so that anyone attempting a new technique from them should be successful.

Details of all the methods mentioned in the text are included in an appendix at the end of the book which has the advantages of an uncluttered text and a separate recipe section, making the book easy to use. A short colour atlas section clearly illustrates many of the staining methods discussed.

The only possible criticism of this book is that it does not include immunotechniques and enzyme staining because the authors do not consider them to be routine. Since these methods are now widely available and used, a short section on their indications would be helpful.

Overall I very much enjoyed this book and would strongly recommend it to anyone involved in the study of cellular material either on a routine basis or for research. I am sure that most of them will learn something new, which they will want to put into practise.

Finally, the book is obtainable at a very reasonable price which is always an important consideration, but even more so nowadays.

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Slide Interpretation in Oral Diseases and the Oral Manifestations of Systemic Diseases, Crispian Scully and Jonathan Shepherd. Oxford Medical Publications. Pp. iii + 156, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1986. £11.95.

This is another book in the increasingly popular slide presentation series aimed at those taking examinations. The authors are trying to aim the book at candidates for the BDS, FDS, MBBS, MGDS and MRCP examinations.

The photographs are generally of a high standard and the answers to the questions precise. However, there are a few exceptions to this. For example in Q2.13, the photographic series of Behçet's syndrome are not representative. A penile erosion rather than the typical ulcer is shown. Q1.13 shows a patient with a low velocity gunshot wound. The answer to the principles of management is given as airway control and control of local haemorrhage. No mention is made of circulatory shock – the patient looks profoundly shocked, if not dead!

Again the slides of herpes labialis and lichen planus were adequate, but more classic photographs of these lesions would have been helpful.

There is very little on oral manifestations of systemic disease and I expect few students sitting for MBBS and

MRCP will think it useful, although medical students and graduates would do well to refer to this informative little booklet. The book will no doubt sell well and should be popular for BDS, FDS and MGDS. If more photographs of oral manifestations of systemic diseases were included it would be well recommended.

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Vocal Fold Histopathology: a Symposium, edited by John A. Kirchner. Pp. xi + 126, illustrated. College Hill Press, San Diego. Distributed by Taylor & Francis, London, 1986. £35.00.

This book is based on an international medical conference and, like many of the literary results of such meetings, it presents a rather disparate group of chapters. The work does, however, review some clinical practice, it brings to the reader's attention some important recent advances and it also manages to suggest avenues of future research.

In vocal fold oedema Fritzell and Hertegard find that it is

better to have the patient stop smoking than to operate. Intubation granulomas are successfully managed by resection according to Lehmann and Widmann, but Kleinsasser waits for some of them to be coughed up spontaneously. Indirect microlaryngostroboscopy is stressed by several groups as a valuable diagnostic method.

Two condensations of elastic tissue, the anterior and posterior maculae flavae, are reported in the vocal fold by Hirano's team. Frenzel focuses his electron microscope on the blood vessels of vocal cord polyps and finds them to be similar to any other blood vessels. Kleinsasser feels that vocal cord 'nodules' are 'a kind of epithelial callus' as opposed to vocal cord polyps which are the result of exudation of blood.

As to future work, Kirchner suggests that there is a feedback mechanism in the larynx which gives singers, for example, the ability to produce a precise pitch at the moment that their song is started. A search for mechanoreceptors, afferent discharges from nerves and the demonstration of a reflex contribution to control of laryngeal muscles during phonation are promising lines for future work.

Histopathologists will find little of interest in the work, but laryngologists, on the contrary, may savour it as a useful addition to a subject not liberally endowed with research contributions.

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Books Received

Aids to Clinical Examination, Peter C. Hayes and Ronald S. MacWalter. Pp. iii + 114 illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £4.95.

Alcohol: Our Favourite Drug: New Report on Alcohol and Alcohol-related Problems from a Special Committee of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Pp. xii + 213. Tavistock Publications, London, New York, 1986. £6.95 (paperback), £18.00 (hardback).

Clinical Cases in Paediatrics, Nicholas P. Mann and Nicholas Rutter. Pp. iv + 168, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £8.95.

Journal of Interventional Radiology. Vol. 1, No. 1, September 1986, edited by Gordon McLean and Robert A. Wilkins. Pp. iv + 53, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. Quarterly. Subscrip-

tions Vol. 1 (2 issues): individuals £21.00/\$32.50; institutions £27.50/\$40.00. Vol. 2 (4 issues): individuals £45.00/\$90.00; institutions £60.00/\$120.00.

Manual of Clinical Problems in Oncology, with Annotated Key References, Second edition, Carol S. Portlock and Don R. Goffinet. Little, Brown Spiral Manual Series. Pp. ix + 358. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1986. £9.95 (spiral binding).

Manual of Emergency Medicine: Diagnosis and Treatment, Jon L. Jenkins and Joseph Loscalzo. Little, Brown Spiral Manual Series. Pp. xii + 493. Little, Brown, Boston Toronto, 1986. £9.95 (spiral binding).

Pathways in Surgical Management, Second edition, Michael Hobsley. Pp. ii + 362, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1986. £23.50.