matching introduces confounding rather than controlling it.

The latter chapters are devoted to statistical techniques for the analysis of epidemiological data, and contain sections which will be beyond the less mathematically inclined. However, they should not be omitted, because interspersed between the equations are many words of wisdom.

As a penetrating and comprehensive review of epidemiological methods this work stands ahead of all others. I shall return to it again and again.

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Nuclear Gastroenterology, edited by Philip J.A. Robinson. Pp. iv + 180, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, New York, 1986. £35.00.

This book attempts to present nuclear medicine methods to gastroenterologists, and also gastroenterology to nuclear medicine practitioners. This it does well. The gastroenterological problems are well stated, and all methods of investigation are presented fairly, with a good sense of balance. Nuclear medicine methods are presented in sufficient detail to allow their use by others. The authors are frank in reviewing their experience, and in stating where methods are not helpful. The quality of reproduction of the illustrations is good. If this book has a weakness, it is the converse of its strength, in that the individual chapters reflect the biases of their authors. However, this is inevitable in this type of book and, overall, the balance is good.

Who should buy it? Nuclear medicine departmental libraries, gastroenterology departmental libraries, and individuals working in the field. It is a book that will be used regularly.

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Neuroendocrinology: a Clinical Text, Mary L. Forsling and Ashley Grossman, Pp. v + 206, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Sydney. Charles Press, Philadelphia, 1986. £22.50.

The two authors of this clinical text on neuroendocrinology are both well known in this field. Dr Grossman and his colleagues at Barts have made major contributions in the areas of hypothalamic releasing factors and pituitary tumours whilst Dr Forsling is an authority on the posterior pituitary.

The first six chapters are concerned with the basic anatomy, physiology, blood supply and innervation of the pituitary, hypothalamus and its connections, the theoretical basis for hormone assays, and the control and mechanisms of peptide hormone action.

The next five chapters consider prolactin, growth hormone, gonadotrophins, TSH, ACTH and the hypothalamic

factors which control the release and inhibition of these anterior pituitary hormones. The final three chapters cover the posterior pituitary, pituitary tumours and neuroendocrine test procedures.

The authors have provided a very readable and thorough account of the subject. My criticisms are minor ones. Apart from a few typographical errors, I thought that bioassays were dismissed too casually and the suggested scheme for pituitary hormone replacement therapy dangerous in that the topic required much more explanation. The discussion of the merits of different modalities of therapy for pituitary tumours was very fair although I was intrigued by the comment that hypopituitarism may complicate the treatment of acromegaly by radiotherapy but not prolactinoma.

I think this book would be a suitable text for senior medical students, junior doctors and laboratory research workers in endocrinology who wish to gain some knowledge of the clinical aspects of neuroendocrinology. They are most likely to dip into certain sections rather than read the whole book through. Therefore individual purchases are unlikely but hospital libraries should buy the book.

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

Professor Michael Hobsley at the Middlesex Hospital has a well deserved reputation as a superb teacher of clinical students. This second edition of his *Pathways in Surgical Management* enhances this reputation. The book is divided into two parts; the first deals with common elective conditions – a breast lump, a swelling in the groin, lumps in the abdomen, the neck, the thyroid and the parotid, changes in bowel habit, jaundice, etc. The second deals with emergencies such as the acute abdomen, haemorrhage, burns and acute limb ischaemia. The important concept of a 'working diagnosis' is stressed, which every experienced clinician uses in practice but which students tend to forget in the welter of constructing elaborate lists of differential diagnoses.

The text is beautifully clear, as are the diagrams, photographs and flow charts. This is a book that can be recommended warmly to clinical students and will also benefit its graduate readers.

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