Inflammatory Bowel Disease. D S Rampton, F Shanahan (Pp 108; illustrated; £12.00). Oxford UK: Health Press, 2000. ISBN 1-899541-49-7.

Would I feel tempted to buy this book? At £12.00 it is a give away price and an excellent buy. It provides an up to date and easily read guide to our present understanding of the cause, diagnosis, and management of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. It certainly provides an authoritative handbook for specialist registrars or even concerned patients. Its one weakness lies in the absence of references—but within 100 pages could one realistically expect to achieve this? Its role as a handbook for a consultant is less clear. Most of the information it contains should be already known to him or her, but it certainly could refresh that knowledge.

Inflammatory bowel disease is laid out in an attractive format with clear subtitles, useful summary tables, and a good range of illustrations. The impact of inflammatory bowel disease on aspects of life such as fertility, sexual relations, education, employment, and the consequences of the disease in childhood are dealt with in a limited way. The growing role of the specialist nurse in counselling and support is not considered in the book although it could provide useful background reading for anyone working in such a role.

I was particularly impressed by the inclusion of such esoteric treatments as arsenic suppositories in the text although this was omitted from the index. Remicade was also absent from the index but dealt with in the text. In future editions the index could be strengthened by a more uniform inclusion of key terms. Another useful innovation could be the listing of reliable web sites.

With the growth of expensive, lengthy, but definitive textbooks that are almost by definition out of date at the time of publication, there is a clear need for cheap authoritative works that will have a relatively short shelf life and can be quickly revised or replaced. The philosophy behind the Health Press gives hope that they may be able to fill this important niche in the medical book market. Critical to this approach is the need for low cost.

J F MAYBERRY

Practice of Therapeutic Endoscopy, 2nd edn. Edited by G N J Tytgat, M Classen, J D Waye, *et al* (Pp 328; illustrated; £99.95). Philadelphia: WB Saunders Co, 2000. ISBN 0702025615.

We are in the throes of a revolution in the printing world, the ramifications of which cannot be accurately foreseen but are certainly as likely to have as dramatic effect on global culture as did Johann Gutenberg's invention of printing in the 15th century. Maybe we should all be pleased that we are living right in the middle of the revolution in communications technology. It is an endless source of fascination to listen to those who just a few years ago could not distinguish a RAM from a ROM, now feeling free to wax lyrical to all within earshot about the latest bit of "state of the art" technology that they own. How good it is to be at the cutting edge of information technology.

Yet, maybe not everyone is head over heels in love with IT. While the medical and particularly the academic community are keen to grasp all the opportunities, there must be many publishers who are rather fearful about what the future might bring. For them, like for almost all of us, change brings uncertainty. But it is not good to question technological progress in the UK just now. We have a modernising government and its leader is fond of saying that he is proud of his country's past, but he does not want to live in it!

So what will modernisation bring to the publishing world. A whole generation is now being brought up to look upon the personal computer as the main means of communication. Conventional correspondence is now sneeringly dismissed as "snail mail". Maybe daily newspapers will hang in there a bit longer but what is the future of medical journals?

All of these thoughts were going through my mind as I read this book, the first edition of which was published six years ago. The sheer range of what can now be done interventionally through an endoscope is quite breathtaking. There is a series of essays on therapeutic endoscopy nearly all of which are of very high quality indeed. The publisher, WB Saunders, has served the editors very well. I think this book has been most beautifully produced—the illustrations are generally very fine and the reproduction of colour photographs is quite superb. This is a book that should be read by every trainee.

Yet there is a problem. It is something of a truism that medical textbooks are out of date before they are published. Of course that is always true, even in an area such as this where the pace of technological progress out speeds the publishing schedule. However, the problem here is rather deeper. In many ways, this book is a manual. It is full of helpful tips on "how to do it" and it is very good on pitfalls and how to avoid them. The problem is that the medium of a textbook just cannot be the way of the future for this sort of book. As most of the neologisms in the IT language, multimedia is a fairly ghastly word, nevertheless one just feels there ought to be a CD or DVD to go with the book.

Whether anybody will be publishing books like this in five years time is anyone's guess—but I wouldn't bet on it. Doubtless trees will be happier but in any case the present publishers state proudly in a preface that their policy is "to use paper manufactured from sustainable forests". Jolly good of them too!

I FORGACS

CORRECTIONS

An error occurred in the Science @Jert article by Playford RJ (*Gut* 2001;48:594–5). The text and reference 1 should refer to the author "Kinzler" and not "Kinzler". Professor Playford apologises for the incorrect spelling.

The authors of *Gut* 2001;48:816–20 have notified the journal of a computational error they made in figure 2. The correct figure is printed here. The one line of text that describes the figure, under the heading "intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma" on p817, should now read, "There was, on average, a 12-fold

Figure 2 Age specific mortality rates per 100 000 population in England and Wales in (A) females and (B) males for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.

increase in ASpmR per 100 000 population in ages 45 and above, with larger increases at older ages and in women (fig 2A, B)". The authors apologise for this error, and wish to point out that all the rest of the data are correct, and this does not change the findings reported upon in the paper or the interpretation.

NOTES

Sir Francis Avery Jones British Society of Gastroenterology Research Award 2002

Applications are invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 2002 Award. Applications (TWENTY COPIES) should include:

- A manuscript (2 A4 pages ONLY) describing the work conducted
- A bibliography of relevant personal publications
- An outline of the proposed content of the lecture, including title
- A written statement confirming that all or a substantial part of the work has been personally conducted in the UK or Eire.

Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 2001 but need not be a member of the Society. The recipient will be required to deliver a 30 minute lecture at the Annual meeting of the Society in Birmingham in