Management of the Child with a Serious Infection or Severe Malnutrition. Guidelines for Care at the First-Referral Level in Developing Countries. World Health Organisation, 2000 (Pp 162; illustrated; Sw Fr 10.50). World Health Organisation, 2000. ISBN 92-4-154531-3.

An accessible practical text for doctors and senior health workers at first referral centres in developing countries is indeed a worthwhile objective and this WHO sponsored guide largely succeeds. An impressive list of contributors combine to produce a 160 page manual covering common paediatric presentations which maintains throughout that these children can be managed successfully with a combination of good clinical assessment, basic diagnostic facilities, and a core of essential drugs.

Designed to complement the *Integrated Management of Childhood Illness* guidelines, it has the feel of a classic textbook with many simple black and white drawings and tables which are also refreshingly new, given over as they are to demonstrations of practical clinical assessment and diagnostic procedures. There is even an appendix of toys for severely malnourished children. There is also an excellent chapter on supportive care, and solutions to feeding problems and nutrition is an important theme throughout. Monitoring of children's progress and an encouragement to audit outcomes are welcome as is the pragmatic approach to human immunodeficiency virus. By virtue of the fact that it is designed with brevity and clarity in mind, it is very didactic however. The reader is not invited to question why for instance "very severe pneumonia" is treated with chloramphenicol, "severe pneumonia" with penicillin, and "pneumonia (non-severe)" with septrin. More leeway is given in the advice to monitor local antibiotic sensitivity patterns in treating *Shigella* and *Salmonella* infections. Many may appreciate this approach but some will not.

A text on the management of the sick child in a developing country should perhaps be best reviewed by a doctor in a developing country. I agree, but in my own mitigation I might add that I have been lucky enough to have worked for several years in Bangladesh and I have sent this copy onto a good home—the hospital library of the paediatric hospital where I was based. This book deserves a wide distribution and a cover price of Sw Fr 10.50 will help.

C DOHERTY

Advanced Therapy of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Edited by TM Bayless, SB Hanauer (Pp 670; illustrated; \$129). London: BC Decker Inc, 2001. ISBN 1-55009-122-0.

The book contains 138 short chapters on almost all practical issues in the management of patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It is the second edition of a book published in 1989 entitled *Current Management of Inflammatory Bowel Disease*. Obviously, in the last 12 years since the publication of the first edition, much has changed both in the medical and surgical therapeutic approaches to IBD. All of the current and most up to date attitudes are well reflected in this book

The format of the book is very convenient and helpful to every physician, especially gastroenterologists who treat IBD patients and are frequently confronted with a specific problem or question related to their management and treatment. The 138 chapters cover practically every issue related to the management of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Readers will find up to date application of diagnostic tools such as computed tomographic scanning and ultrasonography to the handling of IBD patients. A significant number of chapters are dedicated to the medical treatment not only of straightforward IBD but also its complications, such as pouchitis, severe perianal disease, not to speak of the management of extraintestinal manifestations. Thirty two chapters deal with the surgical aspects of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's. These chapters provide gastroenterologists with in depth information regarding surgical options, their advantages, and disadvantages. Even though the chapters that relate to surgical intervention of IBD have been written by experienced surgeons, they are easily followed and understood by medical people, who are usually those who refer patients for surgery. Reading these pertinent chapters will enable the medical man to better understand what is to be expected from the intervention, its details, and place in the therapeutic approach to the treatment of IBD.

The book contains all of the necessary and most current information about the novel medical treatment of IBD. A special chapter deals with anticytokine therapy and another with novel manipulation of the inflammatory mediator pathways.

Another feature that characterises this book is inclusion of a rather unusual number of chapters on the humanistic aspects of the management of chronic IBD and patient-physician interactions.

Most of the chapters include a short list of additional references and a brief comment by the editor calling attention to other views and highlighting other areas of potential interest.

Because of the broad spectrum of the book and because the 138 chapters have been written by different authors, repetitiveness is unavoidable and many issues are dealt with more than once. In spite of this drawback, the book is an excellent source of information, practical as well as basic. It will be helpful for clinicians who handle IBD who are looking for a comprehensive resource, containing pertinent information on almost every problem that may arise in the management of patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

D RACHMILEWITZ

Liver Biopsy Interpretation. PJ Scheuer, JH Lefkowitz (Pp 381; illustrated). London: Harcourt, 2000. ISBN 0 7020 2502 X.

Should general pathologists attempt to interpret liver biopsy specimens at all? I enjoy the great luxury of being able to spend my workday exploring aspects of pancreatic and hepatobiliary pathology almost exclusively, and the more I study the liver the surer I am that doing justice to a liver biopsy specimen is a tough job.

But that job has been made much easier now. The new version (sixth edition) of Scheuer and Lefkowitz's *Liver Biopsy Interpretation* is a superlative guide for those

venturing into liver work. It should be required reading for trainees not only in anatomical pathology but also in hepatology and in surgery of the liver and biliary tree, whom it will assist immeasurably in understanding how the biopsy diagnoses are made that are used to monitor their patients' clinical courses.

The reader is taken by the hand through what to do—and what not to do—in organising all aspects of biopsy management. The authors move from discussions that should precede tissue sampling in unusual or complicated cases through the advantages and disadvantages of processing, sectioning, and staining techniques; they discuss clinicopathological entities, issues in differential diagnosis, and approaches to be taken in clarifying problems, and even give advice on how to structure to its users' best profit the report of findings. The text is buttressed by well selected references that neglect neither classic work nor the most recent advances, with attention to molecular genetics and cellular physiology in our understanding of disease as faced in the clinical and diagnostic laboratory. The figures that the authors provide illustrate their points admirably, and the increased use of colour in this new edition is a delight.

The authors ride their hobby horses now and again, and theirs are not mine (I have never understood why sections stained specifically for elastic tissue, or to point up type I collagen, or with the periodic acid-Schiff technique in the absence of preliminary diastase digestion are so often among those referred for consultative opinion). Nor do I have much use for aspiration cytology of solid, rather than cystic, liver lesions, to which the authors now give half a chapter. If you have a needle in the liver, I say take a true biopsy specimen for a more certain diagnosis.

But, quibbles aside, I know of no better English language liver biopsy handbook than this one. It should be part of the microscope-side library of any pathologist whose practice involves the liver. There it will help him or her not only to do good work but also to meet higher expectations because as consultant internists and surgeons familiarise themselves with this book, the standard of practice of liver histopathology that they demand, as better informed consumers, will necessarily rise.

A KNISELY

Hirschsprung's Disease and Allied Disorders, 2nd Edn. Edited by AM Holschneider, P Puri (Pp 503; illustrated). The Netherlands: Harwood Academic Publishers, 2000. ISBN 90-5702-263-x.

Hirschsprung's disease, or congenital intestinal aganglionosis, was named after Harald Hirschsprung, a Danish paediatrician who gave the first description of the condition in 1886. At first the massive dilatation of the colon was believed to be caused by an abnormality within the dilated colon itself and the condition was therefore called "congenital megacolon". Sir Frederick Treves (1898) performed the first curative operation. While operating on a six year old girl he noted that although there was massive dilatation of the proximal colon, the lower sigmoid colon and rectum were narrow. He performed an abdominoperineal resection of the distal colon and rectum with anastomosis of the proximal colon to the anal margin. The

patient was known to survive at least until 67 years of age.

The true cause of the disease, which is a congenital absence of ganglion cells in the wall of a variable segment of rectum and colon, was not recognised until 1948. It is now appreciated that the abnormality involves the whole of the autonomic nerve supply to the affected bowel and that the RET proto-oncogene, which is expressed in various cell lines derived from the neural crest, is a major gene for the disease. This genetic abnormality has provided an explanation for the relationship of the disease to other genetic diseases such as multiple endocrine neoplasia and the Waardenburg syndrome. The successful surgical management of congenital aganglionosis now depends on an accurate resection of affected bowel which is aided by the use of histochemical methods for the intraoperative assessment of the myenteric plexus.

The many facets of this congenital abnormality, which has an incidence of approximately 1 in 5000 live births, have resulted in fascinating studies by physiologists, morphologists, and geneticists. These investigations have led to the recognition of a whole range of abnormalities in the innervation of the gut which include hypoganglionosis and hyperganglionosis as well as the classical aganglionosis.

The book reviewed here is the second edition of a text on Hirschsprung's disease first published by Holschneider in 1982. It starts with a brief historical overview, which includes a good description of Swenson's original pull through operation for the condition in 1948, a procedure designed to conserve the anal sphincter mechanism.

The editors have endeavoured to provide a wide range of current knowledge which they have presented in three main sections—physiology and pathophysiology (including molecular genetics); clinical aspects of the disease; and techniques and results of surgical treatment. Fifty experts in various fields have contributed to the very comprehensive text.

The first section is particularly noteworthy for the reviews of the development and functional anatomy of the enteric nervous system written by JHC Meyers and MD Gershon, respectively. These are nicely presented with excellent overviews of the basic science which is essential knowledge for anyone involved in research of these congenital conditions. The next two chapters focus on molecular genetics and the section concludes with discussions of normal colonic function and pathophysiology.

The second "clinical" section includes chapters on the typical presentation of a range of congenital diseases of the enteric nervous system as well as the radiological, functional, and histological methods of diagnosis. RA Brown and S Cywes have also provided a useful summary of the remarkable number of malformations which have been described in association with Hirschsprung's disease. This section could perhaps have been enhanced by inclusion of colour illustrations which would have increased the value of the examples of histochemical techniques.

The third "surgical" section begins with a comprehensive description of the six most commonly used surgical techniques in Hirschsprung's disease, and here the presentation could have been improved by a more consistent approach to the artwork. Further chapters discuss the reported complications

of the various techniques and outline their management. I felt that a critical review of these operative techniques, perhaps with a meta-analysis of published data, would have been of interest and might have helped surgeons to decide whether there is a "best buy" among all of these procedures. Consistency in the reference lists, some of which are arranged alphabetically while others follow a strictly numerical system, would also have removed an irritation.

In summary, this book provides a wealth of data about Hirschsprung's disease and related abnormalities. Although there are a few weaknesses in the editing of the text and artwork I have no hesitation in recommending it as a very useful reference book for surgeons and gastroenterologists, both in their research work and clinical practice.

E R HOWARD

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 March 2002. Applications (TWENTY COPIES) should be made to the Honorary Secretary, British Society of Gastroenterology, 3 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB by 1 December 2001.

Hopkins Endoscopy Prize 2002

Applications are invited by the Endoscopy Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 2002 Award. Applications (TEN 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.

An applicant need not be a member of the Society. The recipient will be required to deliver a 20 minute lecture at the Annual

meeting of the Society in Glasgow in March 2002. Applications (TEN COPIES) should be made to the Honorary Secretary, British Society of Gastroenterology, 3 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB by 1 December 2001.

Falk Symposium No 127: Autoimmune Diseases in Pediatric Gastroenterology

This Falk Symposium will be held on 8–9 November 2001 in Basel, Switzerland. Further information: Falk Foundation e.V. - Congress Division, Leinenweberstr. 5, PO Box 6529, D-79041 Freiburg, Germany. Tel: +49 761 15 14 0; fax: +49 761 15 14 359; email: symposia@falkfoundation.de

42nd Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology

This conference will be held on 23–29 November 2001 in Lucknow, India. The programme includes two pre-conference symposia (on gastrointestinal motility and scientific communication, on 23 November), a one day postgraduate course or CME (24 November), and an endoscopy workshop (28–29 November). Further information: Dr S R Naik, Department of Gastroenterology, SGPGI, Lucknow 226014, India. Tel: +91 522 440700 or 440800, ext 2400; fax: +91 522 440078 or 440017; website: www.sgpgi.ac.in/conf/iscg2001.html

41st St Andrew's Day Festival Symposium on Therapeutics

This will be held on 6–7 December 2001 in Edinburgh, UK. Further information: Ms Eileen Strawn, Syposium Co-ordinator. Tel: +44 (0)131 225 7324; fax: +44 (0)131 220 4393; email: e.strawn@rcpe.ac.uk; website: www.rcpe.ac.uk

50th Anniversary of the First Right Hepatectomy: from Resection to Donation

This event will be held on 14–15 December 2001 in Paris, France. Further information: Michèle Centonze Conseil, 6 bis rue des cendriers, 7020 Paris, France. Tel: +33 1 44 62 68 80; fax: +33 1 43 49 68 58; email: mail@m-centonze-conseil.com; website: www.m-centonze-conseil.com

14th Intensive European Course of Digestive Endoscopy

This course will be held on 17–18 December 2001 in Strasbourg, France. Further information: Michele Centonze Conseil, 6 bis rue des Cendriers, 75020 Paris, France. Tel: +33 1 44 62 68 80; fax: +33 1 43 49 68 58; email: mail@m-centonze-conseil.com

GI Malignancies Can be Prevented and Treated: from the Bench to the Bedside

This international meeting will be held on 15–20 January 2002 at the Dead Sea, Israel. Further information: Secretariat, GI Malignancies, PO Box 29041, Tel Aviv 61290, Israel. Tel: +972 3 5175150; fax: +972 3 5175155; email: gi@targetconf.com