In the main, however, it provides relevant and interesting information for the informed reader on the relationships between quality, public expectations and costs. The challenges of managing within tight resource limits and the difficult human relations and organisational political issues involved in managing to a budget are well brought out. The book sets out to provide a bridge between principles and practice and its use of mini case studies to achieve this is both informative and entertaining. Indeed, many will empathise with Mr H O'Chondriac who was admitted to St Beadful Hospital. Unfortunately, however, it never quite achieves its stated ambition of delivering every budget manager's dream – 'how to make significant savings from already overstretched resources'.

It is somewhat surprising that there is little on the most recent evidence-based approaches to quality improvement such as total quality management, six sigma or lean thinking. These disciplines have been shown in other sectors and in some limited places in healthcare to deliver improved quality at lower costs. Given the book's stated aim, it would have been helpful for there to have been greater reference to such approaches. In view of its somewhat eclectic mix of concepts and issues, this may also have given a clearer overall structure.

Nevertheless, Bryans has produced a useful introduction for clinicians who are new to the management of budgets. He has shown that there are no easy answers and has made clear that developing the skills of managing resources well – be they money, buildings, equipment or people – is critical to the delivery of good quality care for patients.

Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery

JOHN FIELDING, MICHAEL HALLISSEY

EXTENT P/H	396 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£115.50 1852336072
PUBLISHER	Springer (Berlin), 2004
REVIEWER	Richard Hardwick
STAR RATING	**

This book attempts to cover all aspects of management for oesophageal, gastric, splenic and small bowel disease. The editors have amassed an excellent portfolio of contributors who have written the 27 chapters. The page layout is double column, which makes for easy reading, and black and white lined drawings are interspersed throughout the text. This style works well and helps to make the information readily accessible, encouraging one to dip in and out of the various chapters. There are questions at the end of each of these that provide a useful 'checking back' function, which helps readers confirm that they have picked up the main learning points from each contribution.

What I did not enjoy about this book was the organisation. It was novel to describe the anatomy and physiology of each organ in its own chapter and then discuss the benign diseases and malignant problems again in separate chapters. However, this resulted in considerable repetition. The spleen seems to have been given excessive prominence with over 20 pages devoted to the benign conditions of this organ whereas only 10 are given over to carcinoma of the oesophagus. There are some unusual chapters such as Chapter 23: 'High risk lesions in the oesophagus and nuclear medicine'. This goes into the most extra-ordinary detail of how radionuclide oesophageal transit studies are performed and interpreted. Unexpectedly, there is then no discussion about high-risk lesions of the oesophagus! This chapter is followed by the only colour illustration of the book, which consists of five pictures of radionuclide oesophageal gastric and motility studies.

I am not entirely sure who this book is aimed at but undergraduates and surgical trainees alike may find it useful to dip into for quick guidance. I think it would be most useful as a reference volume for some of its excellent chapters such as 'Stromal upper GI tract neoplasms' and 'Surgical resection of oesophageal cancer: role of extended lymphadenectomy'.

Frontiers in Colorectal Surgery

ROBIN PHILLIPS, SUE CLARK

EXTENT P/H	274 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£40.00 1903378338
PUBLISHER	tfm (Shrewsbury), 2005
REVIEWER	John Hobbiss
STAR RATING	*****

This book provides an excellent summary of the state of the art of coloproctology and would be a most useful acquisition for anyone involved in colorectal practice. It is edited by two well-known, London-based coloproctologists and consists of 25 chapters covering all aspects of the specialty. The 41 named authors are mainly UK-based, with small contributions from Scandinavia and North America. The book has five parts: 'Frontiers in neoplasia', 'Frontiers in IBD', 'Frontiers around the anus', 'Frontiers in management' and 'Gender issues'. I turned immediately to the last section, intrigued to find out what gender issues in coloproctology were. (A debate on the construction of a colonic neovagina perhaps?) The section actually consists of two excellent chapters on fertility after pouch surgery and erectile dysfunction. 'Reproductive health' would have been a more accurate heading.

Each chapter is structured under the headings: 'What is the problem?', 'Where are we now?' and 'Where are we