

ated with the photographs, but the amount that is present is quite sufficient to give the reader a clear understanding of what is being demonstrated.

The preface of the book indicates that this is also a textbook for describing operative neurosurgery. There is a great deal of information concerning positioning of patients, but if there is any weakness with this work, it is the fact that there is not much description associated with each operative approach. Thus, one could conclude that this is auxiliary information for those in training and not necessarily a definitive description dealing with how to actually do an operative procedure.

Overall, the atlas is excellent and would be of great benefit to residents-in-training or those who have just recently finished their training. It is certainly a textbook that can be used as a reference source by the experienced practitioner.

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**Current Topics in Thyroid Autoimmunity**, ed by Deborah Doniach, Horst Schleusener, and Balthasar Weinheimer, New York, Thieme-Stratton, 1985, 222 pp, \$20.00

This book is based upon the proceedings of the 1983 Henning Symposium of Europe. The text provides an overview of trends in thyroid research currently being performed in Europe. The introduction, the summing up, and the future prospects of the field are discussed by Dr. Deborah Doniach, a pioneer in the field and an internationally recognized authority on thyroid autoimmunity.

*Current Topics in Thyroid Autoimmunity* is a compilation of 21 scientific papers contributing to the understanding of complex clinical diseases (i.e., Graves' thyrotoxicosis and autoimmune thyroiditis). One third of the papers deal with the technical aspects of the detection and measurement of various autoantibodies in Graves' disease. Areas of research concerned with the understanding of immunologic mechanisms in thyroid autoimmunity are also described. Not discussed are growth-inhibiting antibodies and their possible role in the development of primary myxedema without goiter.

Although the book contains a number of papers relating to autoimmune thyroid research, it has left out two important topics: the immunogenetics and the immunology of Graves' eye disease (exophthalmus). Also, it would have been of great help to readers if the related papers were divided into defined categories and were compiled next to each other in some kind of order. In spite of these shortcomings, *Current Topics in Thyroid Autoimmunity* should prove to be stimulating and informative to experimental endocri-

nologists, clinical endocrinologists, and clinical immunologists who are currently involved in various aspects of autoimmune thyroid research as well as to those who are interested in the science of autoimmunity in general. Most scientists in thyroid research will certainly find this book a helpful resource.

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**Lecture Notes on Gastroenterology**, by Elwyn Elias and Clifford Hawkins, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 383 pp, price not given.

This book is divided into three parts: "The Clinical Approach," "Investigations," and "Essential Background Information."

Part one is a concise explanation of the most common symptoms and signs of gastrointestinal diseases. Differential diagnosis is limited to the usual entities seen in clinical practice and omits some of the less common conditions. The interpretation of symptoms is practical and generally lucid. However, there are some inaccuracies, such as the statement that heartburn is due to esophagitis from hiatus hernia and the listing of hiatal hernia as one of the three most common causes of dysphagia.

The second part deals with common laboratory and radiologic studies of the gastrointestinal tract. This chapter is useful for the medical student assigned to a gastrointestinal hospital ward. An example of the content is the discussion of leukocytosis which occurs with bacterial infections, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, alcoholic hepatitis, and high-dose corticosteroids. In this era of complicated technology, this section will be especially valuable for the student. The text is clear and the illustrations are well reproduced. Guidelines regarding preferential use of endoscopy over radiographic studies are included.

The third part represents two-thirds of the book. It deals with clinical manifestations of gastrointestinal diseases, diagnosis, and treatment. It is accurate, well updated, generally concise, and easy to read. Recent advances in therapeutic endoscopy, medical dissolution of gallstones, and serologic diagnosis of viral hepatitis are described. Unfortunately, some important entities are discussed too superficially. The role of the lower esophageal sphincter in the pathogenesis of reflux and the fact that most hiatal hernias are asymptomatic are only briefly noted. The complications of acute pancreatitis and their management are omitted. Other sections dealing with chronic abdominal pain, peptic ulcer disease, chronic liver disease, and inflammatory bowel disease are well covered.

Overall, *Lecture Notes on Gastroenterology* is a summary for the medical student. The book is well balanced and easy to read. The material is updated, the

concepts are clear, and proper emphasis is made of the clinical manifestations of gastrointestinal disease. A bibliography at the end of each chapter would have been desirable to stimulate the student in seeking further knowledge. The reader will have to refer to major textbooks for more detailed explanations, statistical considerations, and controversial issues.

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**Operative Strategy in General Surgery**, vol II, by Jameson L. Chassin, New York, Springer-Verlag, 1985, 603 pp, \$98.00.

This text is far more than an atlas of diagrams depicting the technical steps involved in several operations. Although many areas are covered in detail, the major ones include the breast, biliary system, pancreas, and esophageal problems. Each section begins with the basic concepts relative to the surgical area being discussed. In addition, the indications for the procedure, preoperative care, and operative pitfalls and dangers are discussed. Prior to the step-by-step technique of the procedure, the author sets forth his operative strategy. Each section concludes by listing the postoperative complications.

The breast surgery section adequately discusses the radical and modified radical mastectomy. However, little attention is given to the growing use and accuracy of core needle biopsies of dominant breast lesions. Conservative breast procedures, such as partial mastectomy with or without postoperative radiation, are not discussed.

The chapters about the biliary tree and pancreas are excellent; however, one may take issue with the recommendation of performing a total pancreatectomy for adenocarcinoma of the head of the pancreas. With respect to carcinoma of the pancreas, the recently developed pylorus-sparing Whipple operation is discussed at length.

The section dealing with esophageal surgery primarily emphasizes reflux esophagitis and its complications. Several of the standard anti-reflux procedures are illustrated. The Collis-Nissen gastropasty is discussed as a method of treating reflux esophagitis with a resultant stricture and shortened esophagus. The alternatives for esophageal replacement, such as colonic or jejunal interposition, are presented.

Several other topics which are covered include abdominal wall hernias, anorectal problems, pilonidal disease, thyroid disorders, and parotid tumors. Finally, there is an excellent section on miscellaneous problems, including the surgical approach for mucosal ulcerative colitis and familial polyposis.

This text would be a valuable addition to the library of either a surgical resident or a practicing surgeon. The major strength of the book is its detailed discussion of the concepts of the operation, as well as the operative strategy. This is not available in other atlases of surgical techniques.

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**Evaluations of Drug Interactions**, ed by Arthur F. Shinn, St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1985, 1,068 pp, \$49.95.

*Evaluations of Drug Interactions* is a new edition of the drug reference previously published under the same name by the American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA). The APhA endorses this text, which is compiled by Professional Drug Systems, Inc. An interdisciplinary review panel of health professionals (consisting of a nurse, a dentist, and a physician) and an APhA review panel reviewed the monographs, which are prepared by the editorial staff and 21 consulting contributors. The book is available in both a softbound text and a loose-leaf version which is supplemented with bimonthly updates.

The book contains a users guide that explains the coding for the significance of the drug interaction (e.g., Code 1 is "highly clinically significant"), an exhaustive 144-page index of drug interactions arranged by the drug's generic name, and an overview of basic drug interaction mechanisms. Individual drug monographs are contained in 18 chapters of drug classes (e.g., "Antiarrhythmic Drug Interactions," "Anticoagulant Drug Interactions," and "Anticonvulsant Drug Interactions").

The individual drug monographs provide the title of the interacting drugs by generic name and a summary of the overall effects of the interaction. A "Related Drugs" section lists other drugs in the same class, regardless of whether such drugs have been reported to interact. The mechanism for the drug interaction is discussed with recommendations for suggested management. At the end of each monograph, there are references to the primary literature.

At the beginning of each chapter, there is a brief synopsis of the interactions discussed in the chapter. The synopsis contains the following elements: significance code, potential effects, and recommendations.

Physicians and pharmacists must have a reliable, up-to-date drug interaction reference available in their respective practice settings. *Evaluations of Drug Interactions* can serve this function nicely.

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