

some resultant difficulty in categorisation. There are a number of useful tables and summaries and a good deal of sound sense and distilled experience of real value.

Should sufficient clinicians at some stage of their training feel that it meets their needs, this book will make a worthwhile addition to the publications available.

G. L. GIBSON

**Bacteria and Human Disease.** By J. M. Slack and I. S. Snyder. (Pp. xii + 484; illustrated; £15.50.) London: YB Medical Publishers Ltd. 1978.

This book begins with a simple and laudable statement of its objectives, and this to impart a working knowledge of bacterial diseases and their causation. Each chapter is prefaced by a succinct overview and ends with a few clinical problems and questions which the student should be able to answer if the preceding pages have been diligently studied. Inbetween the information is fairly up to date and tightly packed. References are not annotated in the text but a short reference list is given at the end of each chapter. The authors include short passages on immunity, pathogenicity, and treatment with each genus, but there is little general discussion of these topics and this may dissatisfy the reader. The chapter on antibiotics was not worth including.

It is difficult to place this book in terms of student requirements. Too detailed for medical students it does not have the right mix for Primary MRCP candidates, and more senior students may find that other textbooks are more suitable to their needs.

D. M. JONES

**Mucosal Biopsy of the Gastrointestinal Tract.** 2nd Edition. By R. Whitehead. (Pp. xiv + 241; illustrated; £14.) Philadelphia, Toronto, London: W. B. Saunders. 1979.

My best books are on a shelf within arm's reach of the telephone. Here this select collection act as academic liferafts, positioned for easy reference during calls from argumentative clinicians. The first edition of Professor Whitehead's book is on this shelf and will now be replaced by the second edition.

The new edition runs to 241 pages, 39 pages more than the first. This is not quite the increase of 'over one half the original', as claimed in the preface. There are more than 40 new photomicrographs, but sadly the printing is on thinner and, I imagine, cheaper paper. This has reduced the contrast of the illustrations, which are now less distinct than in the original version. No new chapters have been added, and the format is identical with its predecessor. Indeed, no major change was necessary. Most of the additional text takes the form of individual paragraphs with up-to-date references, and each improves the relevant section of the book. There are three parts, as before, covering gastric biopsy, small-intestinal biopsy, and colonic biopsy. In the first part, on gastric biopsy, there is an improved 'overview' of gastritis and its significance plus sections added on gastric polyps and gastric lymphomas. In the second section, dealing with small-intestinal biopsy, a classification of duodenitis has been added. In this part of the book I was disappointed not to find more on jejuneal morphology, especially the role of lymphocyte counting, and also more on the controversial variants of the small-bowel lymphoma. The latter is perhaps an unjustified complaint for neoplastic disease is beyond the stated scope of the book, though it is a subject closely linked to gluten-sensitive enteropathy. In the third part, on colonic biopsy, the section on precancer in ulcerative colitis is greatly improved, and an interesting discussion on the 'normal biopsy' in Crohn's disease has been added. Perhaps infectious diarrhoea could have had better coverage, and a separate section on the interpretation of colonoscopic biopsy must surely be warranted in the 3rd edition.

Whether the difference between the two editions achieves statistical significance is debatable but all these are minor matters. This is another enjoyable, highly informative, and benign cruise down the gastrointestinal tract.

A. B. PRICE

## Notices

### International Cancer Research Technology Transfer Programme

The International Union Against Cancer will award 'International Cancer Research Technology Transfer' grants for research on cancer. The available funds are designed to permit investigators of any nationality to visit a research centre or centres abroad for a period not exceeding 28 days. The funds cover travel and living expenses. Additional information and application forms may be obtained from: International Union against Cancer, Conseil-Général 3, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

### International Cancer Research Workshop Programme

The International Union Against Cancer will award financial support to enable the organization of International Cancer Research Workshops. The workshop should preferably bring together no more than 12 investigators active in the same field of basic, clinical or behavioural research relevant to cancer. The duration of the workshop should not exceed four days. Funds are intended to cover no less than 30% of the total cost of an approved workshop, up to a maximum of US \$10,000 for each workshop. Applicants must provide a statement that funds from other sources will be available to cover the remaining costs. Closing dates for the receipt of applications are: 1 January—1 March—1 June—1 September. Additional information and application forms may be obtained from: International Union against Cancer, Conseil-Général 3, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

### 3rd International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Hormones

Cambridge-England, 15-18 September 1980

This symposium will cover the conventional circulating hormones as well as the locally acting paracrine peptides and the peptidergic innervation. The programme will consist mostly of submitted papers with review talks by invited authorities. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 31 March 1980. For further details please write to: Dr S R Bloom or Dr J M Polak, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS UK.