

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Book reviews represent an important, difficult, time-consuming task. Listed below are the individuals who have reviewed books for HEPATOLOGY in 1990. The Book Editor and Editorial Board wish to thank these scientists for their effort, wisdom and time.

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HEPATOLOGY invites all readers who wish to review books for this JOURNAL to indicate their interest by informing the Book Editor. If there is a specific subject or subsubject that the potential reviewer prefers, he or she should so indicate. If there is a specific book in press that a reader would like to review, a note to this effect should be sent to the Book Editor.

Book reviews may be of any reasonable length. They should be written informally in the style of the reviewer. They should focus primarily on the contents and significance of this book, but may comment on any aspect of the book, such as style, appearance, type size, quality of illustrations, adequacy of index, cost or any other feature. Reviewers should feel free to enliven the review by quoting from the book, giving examples and comparing it with other books or the classic in the field. If the reviewer believes that the book could have been organized better, the reviewer may suggest ways of reorganization. The reviewer should attempt to identify the group or subgroups for whom the book would have the greatest impact.

BOOKS RECEIVED:

Ultrasound Diagnosis of Digestive Diseases; by F. S. Weill. Springer-Verlag, 1989; 648 pages; \$120.00.

Liver Function; edited by D. G. Cramp and E. R. Carson. Chapman & Hall, 1990; 263 pages; \$59.95.

Modern Concepts in Gastroenterology; edited by E. Shaffer and A. B. R. Thomson. Plenum Publishing Corp., 1989; 319 pages; \$49.50.

The Development of American Gastroenterology; by J. B. Kirsner. Raven Press, Inc., 1990; 466 pages; \$59.00.

Cholesterol Metabolism, LDL, and the LDL Receptor; by N. B. Myant. Academic Press, Inc., 1990; 465 pages; \$69.95.

Hepatology: A Textbook of Liver Disease; two-volume set; by D. Zakim and T. D. Boyer. W. B. Saunders Co. 1990; 1,706 pages (set); \$225.00 (set).

Practical Gastrointestinal Endoscopy; by P. B. Cotton and C. B. Williams. Mosby-Year Book, Inc., 1990; 289 pages; \$49.95.

Infectious Diseases of the Liver; edited by L. Bianchi, W. Gerok, K-P Maier and F. Deinhardt. Kluwer Academic Press, 1990; 386 pages; \$99.50.

Free Radicals in the Pathogenesis of Liver Injury.

Edited by G. Poli, K. H. Cheeseman, M. U. Dianzani and T. F. Slater, 365 pp. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1989. \$120.00.

This book is the result of an international meeting in Turin, Italy, in June 1988, dealing with the role of free radicals in liver injury; it comprises four sections. The first pertains to hepatocyte-induced damage after oxidative stress. As would be expected, heavy emphasis is placed on the role of increased intracellular Ca^{2+} , and evidence is presented for and against this being a key event leading to cell injury. Some of the most interesting data deal with reversible and irreversible damage (strand breaks) in DNA and the concept that cytoskeletal

elements may be a main target for oxidative change.

The second section deals with the possible role of free radicals and development of HCC. Why choline deficiency leads to development of neoplasms, especially with respect to the role of free radicals, still defies convincing explanation. The abbreviated length of this section of the book reflects how little is known about the role of free radicals in induction of neoplasms.

The third section deals with evidence for free radicals in chronic liver disease, although many of the contributions represent *in vitro* studies with hepatocytes or biliary epithelial cells. Obviously, relating these data to hepatic necrosis *in vivo* is difficult. Still unanswered is the question of whether metabolism of ethanol in humans produces a radical that can be incriminated in alcoholic liver disease. The last section of this book deals with antioxidant defenses in the liver. Several contributions deal with changes in vitamin E and glutathione. Intriguing evidence is presented on the ability of ascorbate to be metabolized to a free radical, the result of which may be termination of free radical propagation.

In general, this is a valuable book, especially for those interested in the biochemistry and biology of liver cells and the role of free radicals in acute and chronic liver injury and in development of liver neoplasms. The only noticeable deficiency is the absence of information on metabolic events involving Kupffer cells. These cells can be expected to be important sources of both toxic oxygen products as well as cytokines, which may be important in inflammatory events in the liver.

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Flexible Sigmoidoscopy. Edited by M. Schapiro and G. A. Lehman, 227 pp. Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins, 1990. \$45.00.

The flexible sigmoidoscope has now largely replaced its rigid predecessor as the preferred instrument for examination of the distal colon. The number of examinations performed yearly and the number of people performing these examinations continue to increase as more and more patients are screened for colon cancer. This work, edited by two expert endoscopists, represents a timely review of the procedure and includes information essential to those learning flexible sigmoidoscopy.

The book is divided into 17 chapters written by 16 authors (including the two editors) and includes superb chapters on colorectal cancer, colorectal biopsy and complications and informed consent. The chapter on infectious diseases encountered at sigmoidoscopy is well written, but includes information about the treatment of diarrheal illnesses and the pathogenesis of human immunodeficiency virus infections that goes beyond the intended scope of this publication. Information provided

in the chapter on flexible sigmoidoscopy instrumentation and equipment is as up to date as possible, given the rapid developments in this area. A chapter devoted to endoscopic color photographs is illustrative, and the quality of the photographs is good to excellent. Given the number of contributors, there is a significant amount of redundant material. For the most part, the repetition provides useful reinforcement of important points. Controversial issues such as the different methods of evaluating patients with occult blood in the stool, cost considerations and the training and awarding of credentials of physicians learning flexible sigmoidoscopy receives balanced coverage of the information available from the literature.

The figures and tables are well done, reproduced clearly and help clarify the information provided in the text. Journal references up to 1989 are included, and most chapters are well referenced.

This textbook will be most valuable to resident physicians, gastroenterology trainees and practicing physicians learning flexible sigmoidoscopy. In addition, physicians thinking about learning sigmoidoscopy would be well served by first reading this text.

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Textbook of Gastroenterology and Nutrition in Infancy. Edited by E. Lebenthal, 1,407 pp. New York: Raven Press, 1990. \$170.00.

Dr. Emanuel Lebenthal has edited and coauthored the second edition of a textbook that he states "... reflects current knowledge and understanding of gastrointestinal diseases and nutritional inadequacies early in life" and "... is more comprehensive and in depth..." Although I fully agree that this second edition is much more comprehensive than the first, the emphasis of the book is clearly weighted toward a nutritional point of view.

One hundred twenty-nine distinguished clinicians and basic scientists representing four continents have compiled a text of 90 chapters, organized in 14 sections: intrauterine nutrition, growth and development; neonatal nutritional, metabolic and hormonal interactions; human breast milk; nutritional requirements during the first year of life; vitamins, electrolytes, and trace elements in infant nutrition; possible adverse effects of current feeding practice; protein/caloric malnutrition; nutritional inadequacies in diseases of infancy; congenital and genetic abnormalities of the gut; diseases of the stomach and esophagus; pancreatic disease in children; liver disease; diarrhea; and constipation in infants and children.

The section on liver disease is organized in six chapters ranging from 13 to 41 pages. The first chapter provides an excellent discussion of current theories of the pathogenesis of neonatal cholestasis and current