

Book Reviews

Disorders of the Oesophagus – Advances and Controversies. Edit. by A. Watson and L.R. Celestin. Pitman Publishing Ltd., London, 1984. 298 pp. £ 25.

Disorders of the Oesophagus – Advances and Controversies, edited by 2 eminent British surgeons: A. Watson and L.R. Celestin, and a panel of distinguished international contributors, all established authorities in their fields, provides a timely discussion and emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to disorders of the esophagus. This book is composed of a series of papers that had been discussed at a conference held in Lancaster, England. It is divided into 4 parts, addressing motor disorders, gastroesophageal reflux, carcinoma of the esophagus and esophageal varices and pediatric surgical problems. Each part consists of 5 chapters and an overview.

The first part deals with esophageal motility disorders. The current classification based on manometric studies is elaborated upon by Drs. Castell and Blackwell. The spectrum of motor disorders and complex interrelationships, with attempted clinical applications, opens the door for further exchange of ideas and research in this rapidly growing area.

In part two, devoted to gastroesophageal reflux, Dr. DeMeester summarizes his scholarly work in this increasingly complex and sophisticated field. The 24 h pH monitoring as the most accurate method of determining symptomatic reflux, and the recent evidence that primary peristalsis is the main type of esophageal motor activity that clears the esophagus of refluxed material in normal subjects are well emphasized. The relative merits and shortcomings of various antireflux surgical procedures are discussed by Dr. Bombeck. The only omission in this chapter pertaining to the "choice of operation for gastroesophageal reflux" is that there is no discussion or even mention of esophageal lengthening procedures, such as combined Collis Belsey and Combined Collis gastroplasty-Nissen fundoplication, in the treatment of complicated gastroesophageal reflux and high risk patients. Dr. Polk in his overview comments accurately stresses the significance of the length of the intraabdominal segment in corrective antireflux operations.

Part three, on esophageal carcinoma, highlights the excellent epidemiologic work of Drs. Munoz and Crespi. Regarding surgical management of this deadly disease, a radical approach, with visceral esophageal substitution using stomach as the organ of choice, is now generally favored. Chemotherapy and Laser beam treatment in the management of carcinoma of the esophagus are intentionally left out because their role is unclear at this time.

The last part provides appropriate and timely discussion of the emerging role of injection sclerotherapy in the management of acute variceal bleeding as well as the results of randomized trials of long term injection sclerotherapy and prophylactic sclerotherapy.

There are 2 chapters on radiologic evaluation of esophageal disorders, which might be of passing interest to the radiologist. Although this book is limited in its scope regarding subject material covered, it has several outstanding chapters supplemented by up-to-date bibliography. My only criticism is that it fails to provide a well balanced overview of the subjects covered. For in-depth knowledge and a well rounded overview of the current controversies in this rapidly growing field, supplemental reading from other sources will be necessary. This book is a welcome addition to the increasing body of knowledge about esophageal disorders and is recommended to those physicians involved in the management of patients with common esophageal problems.

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Pathology of the Esophagus. By Horatio Enterline and John Thompson. Springer-Verlag, New York, Berlin, Heidelberg, Tokyo, 1984. 192 pp. US \$ 45.00.

Pathology, along with anatomy and physiology, is rightly considered one of the "mother-sciences", forming a basis for almost all that we do as radiologists. There is, however, a paucity of good source material on pathology for those interested in the gastrointestinal tract. The little available, like most pathology texts, is written mainly for pathologists, with minimal direct reference to the concerns of radiologists.

This text is welcome not only because it goes into detail on the esophagus, but also because it has the specific goal of extensive radiological and clinical correlation. It was written by 2 authoritative pathologists and contains significant contributions by their radiologic colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania. This collaboration is evident in the numerous radiographic and endoscopic illustrations. (Many of these latter are in a special color section.)

The book begins with a chapter on normal structure and function followed by one on congenital disorders. Throughout the book, considerable emphasis is placed on embryology and development. The authors admit to some arbitrary grouping of dissimilar entities into subsequent chapters, the one on her-

nias, foreign bodies, and varices being the most striking example. A highlight of the book is the excellent coverage of Barrett's metaplasia and its relationship to adenocarcinoma. The 3 chapters devoted to tumors are also excellent.

Pathology of the Esophagus is very extensively referenced, thereby consolidating a great wealth of previously diverse sources. The style at times is more like that of an annotated literature review rather than that of an assimilation of the author's views and experience. This sometimes interferes with readability. On the other hand, there are times when the authors are dogmatic where others might question their conclusions, as in the etiology and treatment of Zenker's diverticulum, or in equating diffuse esophageal spasm with idiopathic muscular hypertrophy.

The radiological and clinical correlation generally succeeds quite well. One might question the emphasis given to microscopy of a few very rare entities, seemingly at the expense of classic radiographs, but this is the exception, not the rule. The quality of the illustrations is excellent, although more extensive labeling of some pathologic specimens and radiographs might make details more discernible by members of the other disciplines.

Despite the few drawbacks mentioned, this is a valuable work which I highly recommend to anyone with a special interest in the gastrointestinal tract, regardless of his or her specialty. This text is planned as the first in a series of works on gastrointestinal pathology. The other volumes are eagerly anticipated.

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Gastrointestinal Disorders of the Elderly. By Lawrence J. Brandt, with contributions by Gerald H. Bezahlter and Ellen L. Wolf. Raven Press, New York, 1984. 636 pp, US\$68.00.

This 636 page text is written by a gastroenterologist, with contributions from a radiologist and pathologist. The book's 11 chapters cover the alimentary tract from oral cavity to anus, as well as the mesentery, peritoneum, retroperitoneum, pancreas, liver, gallbladder, biliary tree, and ischemic disorders of the intestine. Appropriate roentgenograms and gross and microscopic pathologic illustrations appear throughout the book, greatly adding to the reader's understanding of the disorders under discussion. In addition, 16 endoscopic and laparoscopic color plates of various disorders are included.

In each section, changes related to the normal aging process, as well as genuine pathology, are described. The text is not all-inclusive, but deals mainly with those disorders that uniquely or predominantly affect the elderly. The chapter on ischemic disorders of the small and large intestine is the highlight of the book. The author describes in detail the pathophysiology of mesenteric ischemia and then proceeds with discussions of acute mesenteric ischemia, focal segmental ischemia, colonic ischemia and chronic mesenteric ischemia. Included in these discussions is a description of the aggressive approach to the patient with mesenteric ischemia taken by the group at the Montefiore Medical Center.

The book is not a radiologic text and is not specifically

intended for the radiologist. One will not find discussions of radiologic procedures, although appropriate procedures are mentioned, including percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography, ultrasound and computed tomographic guided biopsies, percutaneous abscess drainage, and balloon dilatation of biliary structures. Thorough discussions of radiologic signs and findings are not included, although the radiologic features of the disorders under discussion are briefly described. This book is a general text intended and suitable for all physicians who deal with the elderly. The chapter on mesenteric ischemia alone is worth the price.

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Surgery of the Pancreas. By John R. Brooks, M.D. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London, Toronto, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Tokyo, 1983. 528 pp. US\$58.00.

The editor's stated purposes for producing this book are: "to put new diagnostic procedures and transplantation into perspective and to present in a single volume a contemporary review of basic science and clinical practice". Both of these goals are admirably reached in this excellent text, which represents a lifetime of study by the author. He has benefited from an impressive list of highly qualified contributing experts. The historical development of pancreatic surgery as well as pertinent epidemiology, anatomy, embryology, biochemistry, physiology, pathology and radiology are well covered before the clinical chapters exhaustively detail current approaches to diagnosis and therapy. Especially helpful is the thorough review of pancreatic transplantation.

Since there are few unequivocally accepted standard surgical procedures for the treatment of any of the pancreatic diseases, this book is of necessity rather encyclopedic in several areas. With all the pros and cons of so many different approaches discussed, the reader is often forced to search rather closely to determine the author's recommendation. This is appropriate for a book with a primary purpose of providing information for senior surgeons and residents rather than for the medical student or generalist.

One can always find areas of disagreement with such a comprehensive work. Many experienced pancreatic surgeons do not share the author's apparent reluctance to use percutaneous fine needle aspiration biopsy for suspected carcinoma in other than obviously inoperable cases. Chemical splanchnicectomy at the time of biliary bypass in patients with inoperable carcinoma and pain has been very successful in several series but was not mentioned in the chapter on palliative procedures. These are small matters and do not detract from the overall considerable value of this work. Inconsistencies are remarkably few for a book with so many contributors. Illustrations are consistently clear throughout the 38 chapters.

With the rapid advances in our understanding of pancreatic disease and the evolving surgical approaches to its management, this book is timely and an important addition to the pancreatic literature.

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