

an entire article entitled "Galactose Tolerance Tests," and yet one only half the size devoted to "Halothane Hepatitis." On the other hand, several of the titles are refreshing additions. The one on "Hepatic Lymphatics" provides information not readily available in many other sources. Others on "Metabolic Activities of Kupffer Cells," "Problems of Liver Disease in Pregnancy in Developing Countries," and "Animal Model Contributions to Understanding Liver Disease in Man," are examples of topics not ordinarily considered in "progress" volumes on hepatology.

On the whole, the book is a useful update of many facets. Indeed, the contents and references are very current and bear witness to a brief period between submission and publication of the volume. I would encourage its acquisition by hepatologists, gastroenterologists, and internists, as well as others looking for an effective, current summary of hepatology. The book is fairly priced.

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*The Hepatic Coma Syndromes and Lactulose.* By H. O. Conn and M. M. Lieberthal. 419 pp., \$42.00. Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

This book consists of 18 chapters. Four are devoted to an excellent review of portal systemic encephalopathy syndrome, one describes the inherited hyperammonemic syndromes, and one describes Reye's syndrome. A chapter is devoted to the assessment of mental states and to a good discussion of psychometric tests. One chapter discusses fulminant hepatic failure. Nine chapters are devoted to detailed discussion of the basic and clinical pharmacology of lactulose. The last chapter discusses the unsolved problems in the area of encephalopathy, with heavy emphasis on lactulose. The reader of this book can learn everything there is to know about lactulose and then some. There is a good and well-written review of portal systemic encephalopathy and hyperammonemic states. The book is well illustrated and well referenced; each chapter has its own bibliography and, in addition, at the end of the book, a 12 page, selected, alphabetized bibliography is also available.

The book is primarily aimed for the clinician, who will find the description of methods to assess subclinical encephalopathy particularly useful. Those who deal with patients who have metabolic encephalopathy induced by chronic liver disease will find this is a very useful text. It is easily read and, as a matter of fact, at times, actually enjoyable.

The authors are well qualified for the writing of this authoritative book. Dr. Conn, from Yale University, is an internationally known hepatologist with well deserved reputation and extensive clinical experience with encephalopathy in cirrhotic patients; and Dr. Lieberthal, from Merrell-National Laboratories, had extensive experience with lactulose. The book costs \$42.00; whether it is worth the money depends on one's need for a readable comprehensible volume on encephalopathy.

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*Atlas of Laparoscopy and Biopsy of the Liver.* By Miquel Bruguera, Josep M. Bordas, and Joan Rodes, translated by John T. Galambos and Horacio Jinich. 215 pp., \$50.00. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1979.

Through the years, several attempts have been made primarily by European authors to correlate laparoscopic and liver biopsy findings. One of these, published in Spain in 1976, has been translated into English by Galambos and Jinich. The book consists of about 64 pages of text and references and 326 color pictures, approximately two-thirds of which are photomicrographs. Techniques are briefly reviewed, followed by a description of the normal liver and the elementary lesions. The rest of the book is concerned with acute and chronic hepatitis, alcoholic liver disease, cirrhosis, cholestasis, tumors and the appearance of the liver in storage, and metabolic and hematologic diseases. Each chapter has fewer than 20 references to papers, chapters, or books that are usually not the first, latest, or most important on the subjects. The text is too brief to serve as a pathology source, but the salient characteristics of each lesion are described. The legend beneath each picture clearly points out the feature to be noted.

The value of an atlas depends almost entirely on the quality of the pictures and the breadth of detail included. Most of the laparoscopic pictures and many of the photomicrographs are excellent. Some of the latter, however, suffer from a common fault in printing color photomicrographs, namely the color temperature or tone varies greatly from one picture to the other even when slides stained by the same technique are photographed. Students of liver diseases must decide if they want to buy an atlas and, if so, which one of several available. A picture book is often helpful, therefore the answer to whether to buy an atlas or not should probably be yes. If help with histology and laparoscopic appearance is being considered, this book will serve well. If an atlas of only microscopic pathology is needed, the recently reviewed book of Paulsen and Christofferson is better. If help with the broader aspects of liver biopsy interpretation and differential diagnosis is needed, Scheuer's book is best.

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*Gallenweg und Pankreaserkrankungen. Diagnostik, Konservative und Operative Therapie.* Edited by Martin Allgöwer and Peter Tondelli. 72 pp., \$35.00. Verlag Hans Huber, Bern-Stuttgart-Wien, 1979.

This slim volume was planned to bring to general practitioners brief and up-to-date reviews of medical and surgical approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of biliary and pancreatic diseases. The initial chapters deal with the classification and clinical aspects of the diseases and with diagnostic procedures and radiologic methods. There is also a discussion of the pathogenesis of cholelithiasis, and of medical measures (chenodeoxycholic acid) for treating cholesterol stones—with a stated preference for cholecystectomy. The chapter on the conservative treatment of acute pancreatitis offers a good review of the various ther-