

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