

volumes but with the rapid growth of interest in oesophageal disorders the time is now ripe for an oesophageal A to Z. Professor Jamieson has succeeded in his declared aim of producing an encyclopaedia of oesophageal surgery. This is a textbook of great breadth, detail, and authority with over 100 contributing authors. It starts with a chapter on the development of oesophageal surgery, and the following 105 chapters cover the whole range of oesophageal investigative techniques, basic science, questions of management, and details of operative techniques. Each chapter concludes with an extensive list of references. The list of authors reads like a Who's Who of oesophageal surgery and Professor Jamieson has done a skillful editing job in collating their contributions. There are, however, a few criticisms. The layout in terms of sections and chapters is a little puzzling. Chapters on operative techniques are sometimes included in the relevant section—for example, reflux disease—whereas elsewhere operative details are in a separate section—motility disorders. The chapter on oesophageal webs would be better included under the section dealing with miscellaneous conditions and I found this chapter a little confusing in its discussion of webs, sideropenia, and dysphagia. The illustrations are all of a high standard, although figure 44-3, purporting to show a hydropneumothorax, appears to have been sawn off above the fluid level (a minor criticism). Now for a few sins of omission. Little or no mention is made of the place of drug treatment as a causative factor in benign strictures. Practical radiotherapy is not represented and in particular no mention is made of alternative techniques in radiotherapy, such as brachytherapy. This is not to detract from the existing chapter on radiotherapy in oesophageal carcinoma, which is an authoritative review of the subject. Lastly, as a thoracic surgeon, I must demur at some of the comments in chapter 94 about rigid oesophagoscopy. Both rigid and fibroptic instruments have their uses and the modern oesophageal surgeon should be experienced with both. There are circumstances in which the rigid instrument is

superior and we are in danger of losing the benefits of a very useful instrument through lack of training. Enough of criticism and personal prejudice. This is an excellent and comprehensive textbook on surgery of the oesophagus and will undoubtedly become the standard reference work on the subject. It is a "must" for any clinician with a serious interest in oesophageal disease, whether surgeon, physician, or research worker. This book weighs nearly 3 kg and costs £135, so before purchasing check on the solidity of your bookshelf and the liquidity of your bank account.—WEM

Notice

Course in lung pathology

A course of lectures, hands on microscopy sessions, and a slide seminar on lung pathology will be held at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Brompton Hospital, London, on 12-15 June 1989. The lecturers will include B J Addis, P J Cole, B Corrin, P da Costa, B Fox, A R Gills, M Griffiths, P K Jeffery, M N Sheppard, S Stewart, and C A Wagenvoort. The programme and application form may be obtained from the Postgraduate Centre, National Heart and Lung Institute, London SW3 6LY (01 351 8172).

Correction

British Thoracic Society proceedings

In the proceedings of the summer 1988 meeting (October 1988, vol 43) the author of the last abstract on page 815P should be S Lawford Hill.