Book Reviews


Prof. Oshima divided his monography into three parts. In the first part, he offers general instructions for the examination and diagnosis with the gastrocamera, demonstrates normal findings and describes orientation on pictures taken by the gastrocamera. The description and differential diagnostic evaluation of the pathological findings is very instructive and accompanied by schematic sketches of findings. The first part closes with a short description of the X-ray examination methods of the stomach (H.Witt and H. Burger).

The second part of the monography is devoted to a confrontation of the X-ray findings and those obtained by the gastrocamera. The different cases are supplemented with a description of the clinical data (Knöchelmann and Semler), with a confrontation of the X-ray findings (Witt, Burger and Gerstenberger) with the results of the stomach examinations with the gastrocamera (Oshima) and/or with the histological finding (Stein). In such a manner, findings in patients with stomach ulcer, stomach polyp, sarcoma, hiatus hernia, changes on the operated stomach and stomach cancer in advanced stage as well as in its initial phase are being described and confronted. This part is specially instructive and valuable.

In the third part of the monography, Prof. Oshima demonstrates several interesting findings obtained by the gastrocamera. Every endoscopical finding is accompanied by a description and again by a drawn sketch, facilitating even for the beginner an orientation and correct interpretation of the demonstrated findings. The examination may be done by the so-called ‘blind’ camera and the gastrocamera with a fibroscope under visual control. Prof. Oshima recommends for the ambulant routine examination and for examination in series (‘Reihenuntersuchungen’) to use the so-called ‘blind’ gastrocamera.

Today, gastroenterologists in Europe prefer endoscopical examination with the fibroscope under visual control against examination with the ‘blind’ gastrocamera. Prof. Oshima’s monograph, however, does not lose anything of its importance, as it offers the most instructive description and evaluation of endoscopical findings of the stomach in European medical literature and documents in an excellent manner the diagnostical possibilities of modern endoscopy. If Oscars’ were granted in medical literature, Prof. Oshima’s monograph certainly would get one. The reviewer congratulates him on such an excellent work.

K. Herfort, Prague


This book summarises the present knowledge on Crohn’s disease and is completed by the experiences of a surgeon working in north-east Scotland. The chapters are well written and contain concise and valuable informations. Special emphasis is laid on the epidemiology, and the findings of the author’s own series (Aberdeen) are compared with those of other workers in England (Oxford) and in Sweden (Uppsala).
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The possible aetiology factors are discussed correctly, but this chapter could have been improved by a more detailed analysis of the immunological events. Details of light and electron microscopic appearance are presented. The pathologic and clinical features of Crohn’s disease of the colon (granulomatous, regional, segmental colitis) – an actual and most puzzling theoretical and practical question – are rather laconically treated.

The chapters ‘complications’ and ‘treatment’ (both medical and surgical) reflect the vast clinical experience of the author and constitute the best parts of the book. After all chapters relevant literature references are quoted and a well-constructed index helps the reader to properly use the monography.

Kyle’s book is a short but excellent review of Crohn’s disease and should be of benefit to all interested in clinical gastroenterology. V. Varro, Szeged