rather than the authors' lack of ability. Readers will occasionally find themselves wanting more information about a particular subject. Also, one statement about the appearance of alpha-1 antitrypsin granules in the livers of patients with alcoholic liver disease was traced back to the original work and found to be supported by a personal observation. It is this reviewer's belief that a personal observation should remain just that until it can be supported by data subject to critical analysis and should not be given the apparent validity of a reference until that time.

Overall, *Topics in Gastroenterology* will be a good reference source for physicians who wish to update their knowledge.

JOHN L. PETRINI, M.D.
Department of Gastroenterology
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Surgical Gastroenterology, by T. V. Taylor, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 574 pp, price not given.

This book addresses surgical problems from the oral cavity to the anus. Additional chapters cover gastrointestinal bleeding, the acute abdomen, surgical sepsis, peritonitis, nutrition, obesity, upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, and stomas and are a unique addition to the primary topics covered in most texts of surgery of the alimentary tract.

In general, the text includes few illustrations and photographs. Although most areas of surgical gastroenterology are mentioned, some are discussed too briefly. The chapter dealing with the esophagus does not mention the use of the EEA stapling device for anastomoses. Endoscopic laser therapy for palliation of obstructing gastroesophageal cancers is not discussed. There is little mention of computed tomography or ultrasound-guided percutaneous drainage of intra-abdominal abscesses. The chapter about surgical diseases of the pancreas is generally good, however, the entity of pancreas divisum is not covered.

On the other hand, the discussion of peptic ulcer disease is thorough. The chapter dealing with the biliary tract contains an exceptionally good discussion with diagrams and radiographs. A good working classification of jaundice is proposed in the chapter about the liver. Crohn's disease and mucosal ulcerative colitis are covered in some detail. The chapter about carcinoma of the rectum discusses sphincter-saving operations, in addition to the standard abdominal perineal resection.

Medical students and junior surgical residents may benefit from this volume, although most of the discussions are not thorough enough for the senior resident or practicing surgeon.

DAVID P. VOGT, M.D.
Department of General Surgery
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Bile Pigments and Jaundice: Molecular, Metabolic, and Medical Aspects, vol 4 of the Liver: Normal Function and Disease series, ed by J. Donald Ostrow, New York, Marcel Dekker, 1986, 744 pp, $99.75.

This book will undoubtedly be the definitive text on the subject of bilirubin, from the biophysical-chemical and metabolic perspective to topics of clinically marginal relevance, for some time. Research progress in this field has been extremely slow due to the highly labile nature of the bilirubin molecule, resulting from its extreme susceptibility to oxidation, especially when exposed to light. Accordingly, most experimental studies with bilirubin need to be carried out in the dark (which is discouraging to most investigators who more often than not find themselves in the dark anyway). However, this type of work has provided the basis of phototherapy of neonatal jaundice.

Although the book does cover clinical aspects of jaundice (i.e., hyperbilirubinemia), it is more a compendium, thus would be more valuable to the investigator with a basic science orientation rather than to the clinician. Of the 24 chapters, this reviewer found the treatment in chapter 4 of the physical chemistry of bile pigments and porphyrins, with particular reference to bile, to be the most erudite and analytically novel of the various sections.

Bile Pigments and Jaundice is current, well written, attractively bound, extremely well referenced, and generally well illustrated.

R. THOMAS HOLZBACH, M.D.
Department of Gastroenterology
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Mechanical Ventilation: Physiological and Clinical Applications, by Susan P. Pilbeam, Denver, Multi-Media Publishing, 1986, 376 pp, price not given.

This work outlines the clinical applications of mechanical ventilation. The first four chapters are a discussion of the physiological mechanisms leading to respiratory failure. Unfortunately, the author has not incorporated the pathophysiological discussion into the rest of the text. The section dealing with pathophysiological causes of hypoxemia does not list the six basic mechanisms (hypoventilation, ventilation-perfusion mismatching, shunt physiology, diffusion impairment, low inspired-oxygen concentration, and decreased cardiac output). In addition, there is virtually no discussion of the mechanisms of respiratory muscle fatigue. The absence of this discussion is particularly noticeable in chapter 10, which reviews the various techniques of weaning from mechanical ventilation. Also, the author does not stress the necessity to rehabilitate the ventilator-dependent patient so that, ultimately, mechanical ventilation can be discontinued.

In general, *Mechanical Ventilation* falls short of its intended goals. The absence of a good physiological discussion and lack of integration of reference sources

into the text itself makes it an undesirable book for the student who is looking for an introductory text. On the other hand, it serves a purpose by being a quick reference text for those who are seeking information about the technical aspects of mechanical ventilation.

EDWARD D. SIVAK, M.D.
Intensive Care Unit
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Ventilators: Theory and Clinical Application, by Yvon G. Dupuis, St. Louis, CV Mosby, 1986, 594 pp, price not given.

This text is intended to be a technical description of various mechanical ventilators which are currently marketed in English-speaking countries, rather than a description of ventilators vis-à-vis patients who have respiratory failure. Unfortunately, there is no mention of ventilators which are designed for home care.

The book can be recommended for individuals who have had some exposure to mechanical ventilation and desire more technical and mechanical understanding. It should also serve as a good review for individuals with a biomedical background who seek more information about differences in mechanical ventilators. The beginning student will be overwhelmed by the technical material.

EDWARD D. SIVAK, M.D.
Intensive Care Unit
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Ventilation/Blood Flow and Gas Exchange, by John B. West, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 120 pp, price not given.

The fourth edition of West's monograph continues to be a high-quality introduction to the basic physiologic principles by which gas exchange takes place in the lungs. The reference list has been expanded to include the most recent studies.

The first five chapters of the text follow the same format as in previous editions. However, the sixth chapter is new. It contains information about the various pathophysiologic processes which are existent in the common disorders of obstructive lung disease, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary embolism, acute respiratory failure, and myocardial infarction.

Ventilation/Blood Flow and Gas Exchange continues to be essential reading for the beginning student of pulmonary physiology and a quick source of review for the experienced clinician.

EDWARD D. SIVAK, M.D.
Intensive Care Unit
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Female Hirsutism: An Enigma. Causes and Treatment of Excess Hair, by Linda C. Edsell, St. Louis, Pulsar Publishing, 1984, 144 pp, price not given.

The treatment of female hirsutism, as presented by this book, is unusually well presented. The beginning chapters dealing with cells and skin are clear and easily understood, but may be extremely elementary for the physician. Descriptions of hair structure in subsequent sections may be informative for both lay person and physician other than a dermatologist. Discussions of the endocrine system and hirsutism are also well done. However, this reviewer disagrees with the author's differentiation between hypertrichosis and hirsutism. Hirsutism in women can be described as increased body hair in sites where hair appears only on men, whereas hypertrichosis is a localized growth of terminal hair, such as in a nevus. Also, idiopathic hirsutism is defined as an increased sensitivity of the hair follicle; however, the new immunoassays of the androgenic hormone have shown that it frequently results from excess androgens or androgen metabolites. The last chapter, entitled "Electrologists," is the most poorly presented section in the book. It comes across strictly as a pitch for electrolysis. It is also redundant and does not describe the specific training by the electrologist and the control over the procedure necessary to safeguard the patient.

WILMA F. BERGFELD, M.D.
Department of Dermatology
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Books received

A Companion to Medical Studies: Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology, ed by J. M. Forrester, R. Passmore, J. S. Robson, D. K. Apps, J. F. Lamb, J. H. Phillips, and R. J. Scothorne, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 1218 pages.

Lecture Notes on Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, 6th ed, by P. D. Bull, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 194 pages.

Medical Abbreviations: 4200 Conveniences at the Expense of Communications and Safety, 3d ed, by Neil M. Davis, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., Neil M. Davis Associates, 1987, 120 pages.

The Medicare System of Prospective Payment: Implications for Medical Education and Practice, ed by Mohan L. Garg and Barbara M. Barzansky, New York, Praeger, 1986, 230 pages.

Practice Management for Physicians, by Donald L. Donohugh, Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1986, 352 pages.