interventional treatments. The third section reviews the severe form of pancreatitis from an international perspective.

The term 'pancreatic abscess' has created confusion and inappropriate therapy for many years. Section 4 attempts to define this complication of severe pancreatitis, and presents a separate section on percutaneous treatment by an interventional radiologist compared separately with open surgical management of this complication.

Having dealt with the severe forms of the disease and the relevant septic complications, the editor has chosen to focus the fifth section on 'pseudocysts' wherein contributions deal with epidemiology and pathology, and expectant therapy compared with percutaneous or surgical drainage. International contributions reflect the experience of managing pseudocysts in Australia, Japan and Sweden.

The final clinical section deals with the mild form of acute pancreatitis, and has appropriate contributions on the classical components of epidemiology, pathology, imaging and clinical diagnosis, and three sections on treatment and variations from international centres.

This excellent textbook should be of reference value to surgeons, gastroenterologists and interventional radiologists, and may be considered a reference text for all surgical resident libraries. I recommend it to any surgeon who has subspeciality interests in diseases of the pancreas and biliary tract. The contributors to this publication are recognized authorities in the field.

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IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE LIVER

Scanning electron microscopy, providing three-dimensional, close-up views of anatomy, revisits the renaissance quest of understanding function through a knowledge of structure. The resulting pictures are among the most beautiful in medicine. Although many of its functions have remained mysterious, the liver has received surprisingly little attention from electron microscopists. This atlas, produced after 15 years of work in the field, provides an excellent reference of the human liver. The author correctly devotes a considerable portion of the book to the normal liver. There are few surprises. The lobule as the liver's functional unit is as valid through the electron microscope as it is histologically. The arterial plexus surrounding the biliary tree confirms the impression of the importance of the arterial blood supply to the bile ducts. Lymphatic channels run in the walls of the portal veins. Fenestrations arranged in clusters or sieve plates mark the sinusoid. Numerous microvilli are clearly seen lining the spaces of Disse and the bile canaliculi. Kupffer cells are shown inhabiting the sinusoids, interacting with lymphocytes and associating with collagen producing perisinusoidal cells. Clearly, the solutions to many of the mysteries of the liver are not far away.

The section on the diseased liver, which should have thrown much light on the workings of the liver, is somewhat disappointing. Histopathological knowledge is merely demonstrated with the electron microscope. I was hoping the author would show what happens in the perportal lymphatics in portal hypertension and ascites, the role of the perisinusoidal collagen producing cells and the Kupffer cells in cirrhosis, why hepatocellular carcinomas retain lipoidal, if any changes occur in the microvilli of the bile canaliculus in the cholestatic diseases and where preservation injuries are manifest in transplanted livers.

The review of the fetal liver is thorough and as exciting as the rest of this atlas. The photographic illustrations are not placed within the quite short text, but are, instead, collected (somewhat irritatingly) at the back of the book. For a special interest, well illustrated book, it is relatively inexpensive. It should be of value to those contemplating use of the scanning electron microscope in the study of liver disease.

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