partly related to the reader's field of interest. Thus a gastroenterologist may find 'Treatment in Gastroenterology' rather pedestrian with little major progress in the dissolution of gallstones, for example, since the fascinating subject was first excellently reviewed in the 1973 edition by the same author, Professor Dowling.

Moving outside his own speciality, however, he may be surprised by the exciting advances in what used to be considered the backwater of rheumatology or, even, the stagnant pool of dermatology. The stimulus to progress has obviously been the multidisciplinary approach, with particular emphasis on immunology and genetics, exemplified by Dr Panayi's paper on the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis.

The cardiology section has a strong surgical bias. It describes the major advances in correction of congenital lesions which have radically altered their natural history and, as described by Dr Jane Somerville, have created problems in adulthood. The initial enthusiasm for, and uncritical acceptance of, coronary artery surgery is soberly, but hopefully, evaluated by Mr Keith Ross. The newer imaging techniques which may help to clarify selection and evaluation of such patients is discussed by Dr G J Davies.

Nephrology manages to avoid the usual immunologically orientated aspects and deals instead with a useful miscellany of therapeutically orientated topics. ERIC R BECK

_Editorial Representative, Section of Medicine, Experimental Medicine & Therapeutics_

_Manual of Lower Gastrointestinal Surgery_  
C E Welch _et al._ pp 276 DM169  
Berlin: Springer 1980

This magnificent book is one of nine volumes, either already produced or actively planned, which are aimed to present current operative techniques in the major fields of general, cardiac and vascular surgery. An important feature is the use of numerous large illustrations (paintings and photographs), many in colour, which place these books among the most beautifully illustrated texts in the field of modern surgical publishing.

The present volume covers the principal operations on the large bowel, rectum and anal canal, together with the surgery of pilonidal sinus and the appendix. Surgical anatomy, pathology, diagnosis, special investigations and surgical complications are considered, as well as detailed operative descriptions. The text is clearly written and printed and there is an excellent bibliography. An interesting feature is an historical introduction together with a list of important references to historic landmarks.

The operations concentrate on those commonly employed in the current practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, and reflect some minor differences in the surgical scene between our two countries. Thus, moving the patient onto his side for the perineal part of the abdominoperineal excision of the rectum is preferred to the usual synchronous combined procedure which is favoured on this side of the Atlantic. The treatment of minor anal conditions and of pilonidal sinus tends to be rather more radical than the more conservative outpatient management so often employed in the UK.

This volume will appeal immensely to surgeons, both in training and in consultant practice. It is a pleasure both to handle and to refer to it.

_HAROLD ELLIS_  
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_Human Physical Growth and Maturation:_  
Methodologies & Factors (NATO Advanced Study Institutes Series A: Life Sciences, vol 30)  
F E Johnston _et al._ (ed) pp 364 $42.50  
New York: Plenum Press 1980

This volume emanates from a conference in Italy in 1979 attended by 97 scientists from 23 countries. There are 12 contributors, from the USA, Canada, Germany, Belgium and Italy. The book is divided into three sections — methodology, growth and ageing, and factors affecting growth — and most chapters conclude with a summary. Many hundreds of references add greatly to the value of the book.

This is an altogether first class volume, which is easy to read and thoroughly up to date. It should be in every medical and especially paediatric library.

The editors deserve congratulations for the quality of the book and for making it available to those who did not attend the conference.

_RONALD ILLINGWORTH_  
Emeritus Professor of Child Health  
University of Sheffield

_Behavioural Science in Medicine_  
H R Winefield & M Y Peay pp 344  
£10.50 London: Allen & Unwin 1980

The study of medicine increasingly demands a high degree of specialized scientific knowledge and technological understanding. It is important that the medical student's view of the patient as a human being within his environment should not be clouded by the demands made by highly technical innovations.

Behavioural science courses have been introduced into medical curricula during the last decade. This has provided preclinical students with some experience of the disciplines of psychology, sociology and, to a lesser extent, anthropology and ethnology, which it is hoped will enable students...