clearly been influenced by recent developments in surgical cardiology and in diseases of the heart muscle. Out of the many admirable chapters three perhaps need special mention. The account of the pathology of the conduction system is clear, comprehensive and very well illustrated – as indeed is the whole of the book. A chapter on surgical, traumatic and iatrogenic heart disease is also of special interest and includes information which is otherwise scattered throughout the journals. Of less practical value perhaps, but nevertheless of considerable interest, is the last chapter – on spontaneous cardiovascular diseases of animals; how many cardiologists are familiar, one wonders, with Manchester wasting disease of cattle?

The editors state clearly in their preface that the book is intended primarily for pathologists. They also modestly hope that it will offer something of interest to those concerned in the clinical diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. This is most certainly the case.

Cardiac Rehabilitation 1975
Report of a Joint Working Party of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the British Cardiac Society
J. Roy. Coll. Physcs Lond. 9, 281–346 £1.75
Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical 1975
For more than a decade, a revolution has been taking place in the management of ischemic heart disease and, in particular, of myocardial infarction. Coronary care units, mobile coronary care and new pharmacological and electrophysiological methods for dealing with dysrhythmias and conduction defects have each made their contribution to a reduction in mortality and morbidity. Such close study of the acute ischemic episode has for some time diverted attention away from the long-term management of patients with ischemic heart disease. This deficiency is now being remedied in many centres overseas and, more slowly it must be confessed, in Britain. This publication is therefore very timely providing as it does a detailed, fully documented, review of the present position of cardiac rehabilitation. All those concerned with the care of patients with heart disease should read this well-balanced account of the clinical, physiological, psychological and socioeconomic aspects of the subject. Although the beneficial effects of rehabilitation are less immediately obvious than those of, for example, the prophylaxis and treatment of dysrhythmias, it might well be said that, on the Benthamic principle of the greatest good for the greatest number, rehabilitation is the most important aspect of the treatment of heart disease in general and ischemic heart disease in particular.

Modern Trends in Gastroenterology 5
edited by Alan E Read MD FRCP
pp ix + 479 illustrated £15
London & Boston: Butterworths 1975
The fifth volume in this well-known series is devoted exclusively to the lower alimentary tract. The editor, Professor Read of Bristol, stresses in his preface that he has chosen topics which are less fully covered in textbooks on this subject but which deserve fuller hearing, and he has aimed to present some of the interesting growing points in liver disease. In this aim he has certainly succeeded. His panel of contributors includes well-known names from South and East Africa, the USA and Australia, as well as from this country. Among the wealth of material covered, the reviewer found particularly valuable the chapters on liver regeneration by Weinbren, hepatocellular carcinoma by Antonia Bagshawe from Nairobi, gallstones by Bouchier, alpha-fetoprotein by Kew and endoscopic retrograde choledochopancreatography by Salmon, but this may reflect his own narrow surgical interests. The book is a beautifully produced and important contribution, which will be welcomed by both laboratory and clinical workers in the broad field of gastroenterology.