Notes and activities

British Council: The Liver

This is a residential course for senior medical practitioners from overseas that will be held in Bristol, 15-27 January 1978. Topics and speakers include: bilirubin metabolism (B. M. Billing); cholestasis (D. Doniach); chronic hepatitis (P. T. Flute); collagen (K. Hobbs); haematology (J. O'D. McGee); immunological aspects (N. McIntyre); liver biopsy (A. P. Mowat); liver tumours (P. J. Scheuer); paediatric liver disease (J. M. Walshe); tropical liver disease (A. W. Woodruff); virus hepatitis (R. Wright); acute liver failure (R. Calne); liver transplantation (M. Davis, A. L. W. F. Eddleston, D. Silk); obstructive jaundice (A. E. Read); endocrine aspects of liver disease; portal hypertension (A. M. Dawson). Director of Studies: Professor Sheila Sherlock. Fee £415. Apply through the British Council in your own country. Closing date for receipt of applications in London, 1 October 1977.

British Postgraduate Medical Federation: Liver Disease

An advanced residential course will be held from 19-23 December 1977 in the Liver Unit of King's College Hospital, London. Fee £100. Apply Secretary, Liver Disease Course, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ by 18 October 1977.

Symposium on Neonatal Diarrhoea of Calves and Pigs

The second international symposium on neonatal diarrhoea of calves and pigs sponsored by the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, 9-11 October 1978. Details from Ms. M. Permut, VISO Trailers, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada S7N 0W0.

Centre d'Hépatogastro-entérologie, Nice

A teaching week on digestive endoscopy (gastroscopy, colonoscopy, ERCP, endoscopic sphincterotomy, peritoneoscopy) will be organised in the gastroenterology unit of Nice from 23 to 27 May 1978. Limited to 16 endoscopists; inquiry and application: Dr B. Ljunggren, Service du Pr J. Delmont, Hôpital de Cimiez, 06000 Nice, France.

Books

Recent Advances in Surgery Edited by Selwyn Taylor. (Pp. 450; illustrated; £11.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1977.

This is a first-class publication bringing together the best of British surgery and there is much here of great relevance for gastroenterologists. Professor J. C. Goligher covers carcinoma of the rectum, Dr Christopher Williams colonoscopy and colonoscopic polypectomy, Mr J. L. Dawson portal hypertension, Mr L. R. J. de Jode acute pancreatitis, Mr R. M. Baddeley the surgical management of obesity, Professor R. B. Welbourn and Mr S. N. Joffe the apudomas. Each review is succinct, readable and most informative. The section on disorders of haemostasis in surgery by Milica Brozovic and R. S. Mibashan brings together a mass of recent progress related to the practical problems of surgery. The place of immunology in surgery is the central theme for the whole book, with the scene set for the general surgeon—and, indeed, physician—by J. L. Turk and J. E. Castro in their section on new developments in immunopathology. Having translated the technical jargon into meaningful terms they give a fascinating review of the points of progress in this important field. This is a book which should be easily available in every department of gastroenterology.

F. AVERY JONES

Motor Disorders of the Esophagus By R. D. Henderson. (Pp. 231; illustrated; price not quoted) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, 1976.

The oesophagus seems to be coming into its own, judging by the spate of books about it recently. The development of manometry in the oesophagus, now 25 years old, and the pharmacological studies of the lower oesophageal sphincter have helped to bring some rationality into a clinical area full of non-understanding. Dr Henderson has used the newer laboratory aids to the traditional bedside and radiological studies, developing an authoritative experience of diagnosis and both medical and surgical treatment of oesophageal problems.

The result is a refreshing book, easy to read, well organised and well illustrated with diagrams, radiographs, photographs, and typical case histories. The presentation and editorial standard are excellent. Best of all, it is not a rehash of what the author

was taught in medical school or read in books, but a report of his own experience, experimentation, and hypotheses. Some of his concepts, like most of those of most people, may not endure but each chapter has a useful list of references and where his ideas differ from those of others he gives adequate reason, and reviews other opinions. An important attribute is that, although he describes the use of the more sophisticated techniques of cine radiology, manometry, and endoscopic diagnostic and treatment procedures, he emphasises and illustrates the value of a carefully taken history in differential diagnosis.

The book is about natural history, physiology, and symptom production, and, although written by a surgeon, it should appeal to physicians and surgeons equally because it is not over-burdened with operative detail.

The title is slightly misleading; there is a useful section on motor disorders of the pharynx and the cricopharyngeus, including pharyngeal pouch, and the rapidly increasing use of cricopharyngeal myotomy.

D. A. W. EDWARDS

Digestive and Hepatobiliary Pathology and Pathophysiology Case Studies By Richert E. Goyette. (Pp. 201; illustrated; £6.50.) Kimpton: London, 1977.

This loose-leaf book presents initial case histories together with the results of investigations. These are interspersed with true and false multiple-choice questions and matching questions concerning differential diagnosis and pathophysiology of the disease together with relevant discussion and references. It could be a very useful approach for junior staff preparing for specialist examinations.

Food Hygiene and Food Hazards for All who Handle Food By A. B. Christie and Mary C. Christie. (Pp. 232; illustrated; £2.30.) Faber: London, 1977.

The prevention of alimentary intalin and formation of toxin in food is an important function of preventive medicine and a role which should be the responsibility of all gastroenterologists. This simply presented, but remarkably informative and comprehensive, paperback should be read by medical staff and their wives. It should be made easily available for all concerned with community and hospital hygiene.