Notes and activities

British Society of Gastroenterology Research Funds

Applications are invited for financial support for research, education and travel or equipment from the Society's research funds. For application forms and further information concerning specific guidelines, please contact the Honorary Secretary, University College Hospital, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London, WC1E 6JJ. Closing dates for applications: 1 February and 1 August.

University of Oxford: Gastroenterology

An advanced course for consultants and registrars and equivalent grades, including those not specialising in gastroenterology, will be held in Oxford from 7 to 10 January 1979. The three main topics are peptic ulcer; some immunological aspects of gastroenterology; and some metabolic aspects of intestinal mucosa. Lectures will also be given on some abdominal applications of computer tomography; some effects of alcohol on the jejunal mucosa; and alcoholic-related pancreatitis. Fee £40. Apply to Dr S. C. Truelove, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

International Conference on Infant Nutrition and Diarrhoeal Disease and Postgraduate Paediatric Education

This conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 10 to 16 November 1979. All papers and discussions will be held in English. Details from the Secretariat, International Conference, Department of Paediatrics, University Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Books

International Classification of Diseases—9th Revision WHO: Geneva. 1978.

This is to come into use on 1 January 1979. Volume 1 contains the classification itself, with notes and rules on its use, and Volume 2, the alphabetical index. The ICD is used in hospitals for classifying diagnostic information in Hospital Activity Analysis/Hospital Inpatient Enquiry summaries, which are the basis of local and national statistics and for diagnostic indexes. It is also used for coding diagnostic data for a variety of other healthcare, morbidity and mortality informa-

tion, and therefore remains a very important publication. There has been considerable revision of the entire classification. Section IX covers Disease of the Digestive System. A new block has been created at 555-558 for non-infective enteritis and colitis, bringing together some conditions from 563, but with separate three-digit categories for Regional Enteritis (555) and Idiopathic Enterocolitis (Ulcerative Colitis) (556), and the new concept of 'Vascular Insufficiency of Intestine' (557). The latter includes mesenteric infarction and thrombosis from 444.2. There are new categories at the end of the chapter for Gastrointestinal Haemorrhage (578), which is now codeable in its own right, and Intestinal Malabsorption (579), transferred from 269.

This publication should be available in every gastrointestinal department. The changes now bring it into much better line with clinical practice.

F. AVERY JONES

The Liver: An Atlas of Scanning Electron Microscopy P. Motta, M. Muto, and T. Fujita. (Pp. viii + 174. Illustrated. £17.25 approx.) Igaku-Shoin: Tokyo. 1978.

This well-produced Italian-Japanese atlas takes the viewer into a fantastic world of surfaces and interiors. He is guided by succinct descriptions of the surface of the liver, the lobule, the liver cell, the biliary and vascular systems and the Space of Disse. Each descriptive section links the scanning observations with the older morphological literature, and there is an attempt to use scanning electron microscopy to solve some old controversies, such as the existence of intracellular branches of the canalicular system. Two final sections of the atlas are concerned respectively with methacrylate casts of the vascular system of monkey liver, and with experimental and pathological material. The latter section is too incomplete to do more than whet the appetite. A technical section describes the methods used, but does not deal in detail with scanning EM methods in general. The intending scanning microscopist will therefore need other sources.

The figures are of high quality and adequate size, many of them occupying the whole of a large page. Each page is accompanied by a brief but adequate caption, which tells the reader from which of several mammals (including man) each specimen is taken. The scanning electron micrographs are supplemented by clear

diagrams and, helpfully, by appropriate transmission electron micrographs showing similar areas. Much of the morphological detail will already be familiar to hepatologists, but the atlas will nevertheless interest and even fascinate them. It should help in the interpretation of the more familiar transmission pictures and will form a stimulating introduction to hepatic morphology for the newcomer.

P. J. SCHEUER

Clinics in Gastroenterology. Investigative Tests and Techniques Vol. 7. By R. I. Russell. (Pp. 552. Illustrated. £8.25.) Saunders: Eastbourne. 1978.

This is the latest addition to the already successful series of Clinics in Gastroenterology. In the last few years there have been many advances in investigative techniques in gastroenterology and the 11 chapters cover such areas as gastric and small intestinal function, gastrointestinal motility, and gastrointestinal tract radiology. In addition, there is a very good chapter devoted to visualisation of the liver, biliary tree, and pancreas, and the edition concludes with a chapter on tests of pancreatic secretion.

All the authors are acknowledged experts in their own fields and the editor has clearly encouraged each author to present a succinct critical review of his own subject.

Although endoscopy will be the subject of a forthcoming issue, the readers attention should be drawn to the chapter devoted to double contrast radiological techniques. As the author emphasises, these techniques afford a greater degree of diagnostic accuracy, which in the future might relieve the endoscopist of the high workload and boredom of examining x-ray negative dyspeptics.

Rightly or wrongly, we are now entering an era when increasing numbers of gastroenterological complaints have to be investigated on an outpatient basis. All clinical gastroenterologists will find this book easy reading and it should be considered a 'must' for all departments.

D. B. A. SILK

Books received

Human Intestinal Flora By B. S. Drasar and M. J. Hill. (Pp. 263. Illustrated. £8.80, \$19.25.) Academic Press: London. Reprinting, 1977.

The Biology of the Pig By G. Wilson Pond and Katherine A. Houpt. (Pp. 359. Illustrated. £15.75.) Cornell University Press: London. 1978.