Notes and activities

BSDE Spring Meeting: Change of Plan

The Spring Meeting of the British Society for Digestive Endoscopy will not now be held at the Royal Free Hospital, London, on 20 and 21 April as previously announced but at the University of Bristol on 13 and 14 April with Dr Paul Brown as local secretary.

Books

Worms and Disease By Ralph Muller. (Pp. 161; illustrated. £8.00.) Heinemann Medical Books: London. 1975.

Although this concise and well-illustrated book is primarily intended as a practical guide for physicians and medical zoologists working in the tropics, it is also a valuable work of reference for surgeons, gastroenterologists, and pathologists who work in temperate climates. Because of increasing movement of persons from tropical to temperate zones, we in Britain are more likely to come across cases of helminth infections. In this book the nomenclature, epidemiology, morphology, life cycle, clinical manifestations, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of those worms pathogenic to man are documented without going into too much detail. For further reading a useful bibliography is given at the end of each type of infestation. This book is unreservedly recommended for libraries of gastrointestinal units and postgraduate medical centres.

B. C. MORSON

Gastroenterology Vol. 4 Peritoneum, Parasitic Diseases and System Interrelationships Edited by H. L. Bockus. (Pp. 794; illustrated. £28.50.) Saunders: Philadelphia.

'Bockus' needs no introduction to gastroenterologists and many will welcome a new third edition of this classic textbook, which now comes in sections, in order to keep the volumes down to reasonable size. Volume four now completes the series, and deals with diseases of the peritoneum, mesentery and omentum, with parasitic diseases and with the relationship of alimentary disorders to other systems. The last 300 pages (almost half the book) are devoted to a 'Relevant Miscellany'. Some of the chapters in this section deal with other diseases (such as diabetes, collagenoses, and the like) and alimentary disorders, while others are devoted to a

variety of topics, including a chapter on computer-assisted tomography of the abdomen.

This volume maintains the established high reputation of the textbook which, under Dr H. L. Bockus's editorship, has been accepted as one of the standard reference texts in gastroenterology. The book is beautifully produced and the standard of reproduced radiographs and other illustrations is high.

As always with books written by many authors and covering a wide variety of topics, one can pick on points of detail or emphasis with which one disagrees, but this would be carping. One hopes that the book will be widely available in medical libraries and on bookshelves of as many gastroenterologists as can afford it.

J. J. MISIEWICZ

Albumin Structure, Function and Uses Edited by V. M. Rosenoer, M. Oratz, and M. A. Rothschild. (Pp. 397; illustrated. £25.00.) Pergamon: Oxford.

The aim of this book, as the authors state, is to bring together in a single volume all the information that is known about albumin. Initially, this book is rather daunting to the clinician in that the early chapters are related to the chemistry and structure of albumin. However, as one reads on and understands more, so a knowledge of the structure and function of albumin gradually builds up and this leads nicely into the final chapters on the more clinical aspects of albumin metabolism.

The chapter on albumin purification describes the methods of separation and the problems of denaturation. Amino acid sequencing in the structure of albumin is dealt with in some detail and subsequently we learn about the heterogeneity of albumin structure. This heterogeneity leads to different binding and transport characteristics. The chapter on albumin phylogenetics is a fascinating chapter on evolution and in the chapter on the genetics of human serum albumin we learn that there are two dozen different albumin variants. The various albumin binding sites and the physicochemical properties of binding to albumin are described and, becoming more clinical, we learn about drug albumin interaction. This basic understanding of albumin leads to chapters on albumin synthesis and catabolism, this being of particular interest to gastroenterologists and hepatologists. The work on albumin turnover in liver disease is

described fully and this book will provide a ready reference for people interested in the kinetics of albumin turnover in these diseases. The book is well written with good editorial discipline, and the references are excellent.

This book can be recommended for academic departments of medicine and gastroenterology. It will not, unfortunately, be read by the every-day clinician.

M. L. CLARK

Endoscopic Retrograde Pancreaticocholangiography (ERCP) By H. Anacker, H. D. Weiss, and B. Kramann. (Pp. 123; illustrated; DM67; US\$29.50.) Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York. 1977.

The cover of this book states that it is the first monograph on ERCP (ERCP). It is indeed the first in the English language, but two of the Japanese pioneers (Oi and Ogoshi) have previously written at greater length. Anacker and his colleagues have a long experience of pancreatography in all its forms, and are able to discuss its history and development with authority. The endoscopic technique is described and emphasis is placed on the results of retrograde cholangiography and pancreatography and their correlation with alternative techniques. It is perhaps unfortunate that the book predates the most recent developments in pancreatic imaging by ultrasonography and computed tomography. The many radiographic illustrations are of high quality. Some of the few colour pictures are printed upside down.

There appears to be some lack of balance in covering the developments in ERCP. Transendoscopic biliary and pancreatic duct manometry is discussed at length. Pure juice cytology merits only a few lines, and there is no mention whatsoever of endoscopic diathermy sphincterotomy or the collection of pure bile and pancreatic juice for diagnostic and research biochemical studies. Despite these criticisms, the book provides a good basic background to diagnostic ERCP; it is well produced with a basic index and extensive bibliography, which is especially helpful since it includes much of the German literature not normally quoted in English language publications.

P. COTTON

Malabsorption in Coeliac Sprue By O. J. Cluysenaer and J. H. M. van Tongeren. (Pp. 294; illustrated; DPI 75.) Martinus

Nijhoff Medical Division: The Hague. 1977.

This monograph describes the authors' observations on 47 patients with coeliac disease with particular emphasis on absorption defects; as such, it is an impressive record of clinical studies and a useful source of references. However, the format of the book suggests that more was intended than has been achieved. In contrast to the clinical chapters, which are well-documented with up-to-date coverage of the literature, the lengthy section on intestinal physiology drawing on review articles and textbooks seems secondhand and hardly adequate as a contemporary account. This dichotomy makes it difficult for the authors to provide new insights into the nature of the absorption defects, even if they so wished; the concluding clinical sections, which have little to do with malabsorption, suggest ambivalent motives. Nevertheless, shared experience derived from meticulous and controlled clinical study is important. As a description of coeliac disease—we are reminded that 'spruw' is a Dutch term—this is an intelligent and useful account. Clinicians confronting coeliac problems will find it helpful but, above all, it can be commended to the basic scientist, for whom it will provide few answers but many thought-provoking questions.

D. WINGATE

Hypoxia and Ischaemia Symposium of the Royal College of Pathologists. (Pp. 190; illustrated; £5.00.) Edited by Basil C. Morson. Published by the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, BMA: London. 1977. This has been published for the Royal College of Pathologists and brings together the papers presented at a symposium which brought together specialised pathologists, physiologists, anaesthetists, surgeons, physicians, and other research workers who have special experience in the effects of hypoxia and ischaemia. The symposium was held in London in February 1977, and represents an important statement of our present knowledge in this field. Ischaemic bowel disease has been covered by T. Alschibaja and B. C. Morson, and responses of the splanchnic circulation to ischaemia by Adrian Marston.

Why Additives? The Safety of Foods Devised and edited by the British Nutrition Foundation. Forbes Publications: London. 1977.

The objective of this booklet is to

present the facts about food additives, which enable urban populations to enjoy a much wider range of food. The immediate gastroenterological and medical implications are in fact minimal, but this small publication does provide a bridge with the food industry.