Notes and activities

BSG Research Award 1978

Five hundred word summaries of personal research work are invited by the Research Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the award for 1978. The award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 35 years or less (on 31 December 1978) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the United Kingdom or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary session of the Spring meeting, 1979. Entrants please write to: Professor H. L. Duthie, Chairman, Research Committee, University Surgical Unit, Royal Infirmary, Sheffield S6 3DA by 1 December 1978.

IV Symposium on Wilson's Disease

The IV International Symposium on Wilson's disease will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 10-12 November 1978. Special forms for abstracts, applications to attend the symposium, and information about registration and accommodation will be sent to those who request them. The deadline for receipt of abstracts and requests to attend is 1 October. Address requests to: Gustavo Pooh or Horacio H. Rubio, Libertad 1376 (1016) Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Association of Clinical Pathologists: Gastrointestinal and Related Hormones

A symposium on gastrointestinal and related hormones will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on 6 and 7 November 1978 under the chairmanship of Dr S. R. Bloom. Apply to Dr Mary McMillan, Group Laboratory, Lewisham Hospital, London SE13 6LH.

Books

Nutritional Aspects of Care in the Critically Ill Edited by J. R. Richards and J. M. Kinney. (Pp. 668. £12.00). Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh and London. 1978.

This book records the proceedings of a conference organised in Glasgow to honour one of its editors, Dr. J. M. Kinney. Each chapter is a comprehensive review by one expert or a team of authors and has clearly been prepared specially for this book. The chapters vary greatly in length, are scholarly, have a full bibli-

ography, and are published without the ensuing discussion. The result is a balanced, readable, and well-produced volume.

Almost half the book is devoted to the physiological and biochemical changes in response to starvation, injury, or infection. This section of over 300 pages is outstanding and includes discussion of such topics as metabolic rate, energy sources, protein turnover, and the effect of hormonal changes. There is also an intriguing chapter on the temporarily impaired cardiovascular response to exercise after elective surgery. The sections on biochemical events are followed by chapters on nutritional support in different clinical situations. Of particular interest to gastroenterologists will be the sections on liver failure, liver surgery, cancer, and the effect of malnutrition in depleting the body's defences against infection.

At £12.00 this book is good value and succeeds in its aim of bringing together in one volume detailed information on the basic science background to the body's response to injury with practical applications of this knowledge.

J. E. LENNARD-JONES

Surgery of the Pancreas—a Text and Atlas Edited by A. M. Cooperman and S. O. Hoerr. Illustrated by Robert M. Reed. (Pp. 257; illustrated; £35.70.) Kimpton: London. 1978.

This text is designed, as its name suggests, for the practising clinical surgeon who may wish to review the techniques available for treating the surgical problems which the pancreas may present. Each section starts with an outline of the condition under consideration, and then mentions the investigations required, before going into the surgical technique. The illustrations are good, easy to follow, and help the description of the operative technique. The drawings are very well produced, as are the radiographs, which are clear and realistic as opposed to many which are now being reproduced in the quest for cheaper production. A further example of the care taken in the production of the book is that the references, which are numbered, are placed as a footnote when more than three or four are quoted, so as not to destroy continuity. References are numerous, if not comprehensive, so that what is not said in the text can easily be followed up on the basis of these references.

Perhaps the greatest strength of this book is the profusion of sound common-sense; typical of this is the line on p. 154 concerning the preoperative investigation of carcinoma of the pancreas which compares percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography and endoscopic retrograde cholangiography: 'these tests are not mutually exclusive and a preference for one must be based on the availability of, experience with and results achieved by each at a particular institution'. This practical approach dominates the attitude to pancreatic surgery, and as a result produces a consensus opinion with which most would agree, and if they disagreed would at least consider the advice to be safe. Where controversy arises, personal points of view are stated; nowhere is this better done than by George Crile Jr. who advocates most persuasively that a conservative approach to pancreatic cancer is logical. Certainly, such a policy appears mandatory on the figures quoted if the surgical mortality is higher than 10%, a third of the average hospital mortality in the USA.

Despite the price of this book, I would recommend it as a most useful addition to a departmental library; even if the text becomes outdated the operative descriptions will be of lasting value.

R. C. G. RUSSELL

Books received

Chirurgie du Tube Digestif By Cl. Olivier. (Pp. 365; illustrated; Fr. 68.) Masson: Paris. 1977.

Comparative Animal Nutrition vol. 2. **Nutrient Elements and Toxicants** Edited by M. Rechcigl. (Pp. 210; illustrated; price not stated.) Karger: Basel. 1977.

Gastric Hydrogen Ion Secretion Edited by D. K. Kasbekar, G. Sachs, and W. S. Rehm. (Pp. 486; illustrated; SFrs. 117.) Marcel Dekker: New York. 1977.

Introduction to Oral Medicine By D. M. Chisolm, M. M. Ferguson, J. Harold Jones, and D. K. Mason. (Pp. 290; illustrated; price not stated.) W. B. Saunders: London, Philadelphia, Toronto. 1978.

Good Health through Natural Therapy By E. K. Lederman. (Pp. 147; price 75p.) Pan Books: London.