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The object of *Gut* is to publish original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in the field of gastroenterology. The field is that of alimentary, hepatic, or pancreatic disease, and papers may cover the medical, surgical, radiological, or historical aspects. They may also deal with the basic sciences concerned with the alimentary tract, including experimental work. The report of a single case will be accepted only if it is of sufficient interest in relation to a wider field of research.

There will be a section for short papers on laboratory and surgical techniques and methods of investigation.

COMMUNICATIONS Papers should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR. Papers are accepted only on the understanding that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee. They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On the paper the name of the author should appear with initials (or distinguishing Christian name) only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. A definition of the position held by each of the authors in the hospital or laboratory should be stated in a covering letter to the Editor. Communications should be kept short, and illustrations should be included when necessary; coloured illustrations are allowed only if monochrome will not satisfactorily demonstrate the condition. It is not desirable that results should be shown both as tables and graphs.

ILLUSTRATIONS Diagrams should be drawn in indian ink on white paper, Bristol board, or blue-squared paper. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet and numbered to conform with the relevant illustrations. Photographs and photomicrographs should be on glossy paper, unmounted. **TABLES** should not be included in the body of the text, but should be typed on a separate sheet.

ETHICS The critical assessment of papers submitted will include ethical considerations. Authors are referred to publications on ethics of human experimentation by the Medical Research Council in Britain and to the code of ethics of the World Medical Association known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *Brit. med. J.*, 1964, 2, 177).

ABBREVIATIONS In general, symbols and abbreviations should be those used by the Biochemical Journal. In any paper concerning electrolyte metabolism, it is desirable that data be calculated as m-equiv/l.

REFERENCES These should be made by inserting the name of the author followed by year of publication in brackets. At the end of the paper, references should be arranged in alphabetical order of authors' names. Such references should give author's name, followed by initials and year of publication in brackets, the *title of the article quoted*, the name of the journal in which the article appeared, the volume number in arabic numerals, followed by the numbers of first and last pages of the article. Abbreviations are according to *World Medical Periodicals* (published by BMA for World Medical Association), thus: Chandler, G. N., Cameron, A. D., Nunn, A. H., and Street, D. F. (1960). Early investigations of haematemesis. *Gut*, 1, 6-13.

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The October 1973 Issue

THE OCTOBER 1973 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

The effect of cholecystectomy on bile salt metabolism

E. W. POMARE AND K. W. HEATON

Limits of the evocative pancreatic function test in the diagnosis of low-grade pancreatitis

R. VAN DER HOEDEN, P. WETTENDORFF, AND A. DELCOURT

The abnormal lower oesophageal sphincter in pernicious anaemia

RAYMOND L. FARRELL, OTTO T. NEBEL, ARTHUR T. MCGUIRE, AND DONALD O. CASTELL

The permeability of the small intestinal mucosa: A study using iron

C. A. LOEHRY, D. PARISH, AND JUNE BAKER

Mucosal secretory IgA and secretory piece in adult coeliac disease

R. J. SHINER AND JANET BALLARD

Electrical potential difference and sodium and potassium fluxes across rectal mucosa in ulcerative colitis

C. J. EDMONDS AND DIANA PILCHER

The effect of a chemically defined diet on the faecal flora and faecal steroid concentration

J. S. CROWTHER, B. S. DRASAR, P. GODDARD, M. J. HILL, AND K. JOHNSON

Serum carcinoembryonic antigen in clinical disorders

S. N. BOOTH, J. P. G. KING, J. C. LEONARD, AND P. W. DYKES

A case of active chronic hepatitis with painless erosive arthritis

D. E. BARNARDO, B. VERNON-ROBERTS, AND H. L. F. CURREY

Progress report

Acute hepatic necrosis and fulminant hepatic failure

B. RUEFF AND J.-P. BENHAMOU

The British Society of Gastroenterology

Notes and activities

Notes on books

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON WC1H 9JR, price 87½p

to coagulate, and even to clip off, bleeding points and to inject varices. There is little published material on the extraction of foreign bodies utilizing fibreendoscopic techniques. We have succeeded in removing a hairpin from a normal oesophagus, and a piece of vegetable matter causing acute oesophageal obstruction in a patient with a benign stricture. We have also removed a dental reamer (a device similar in size to a hypodermic needle but with a corkscrew-like shaft) which had been swallowed and which had become embedded in the antral mucosa. Retained sutures following gastric operations have been removed on six occasions. We have failed to remove a florin retained in the stomach of a child, and have also failed to remove a swallowed toothbrush despite two attempts using 'cannulation' of the hole in the proximal (handle) end by biopsy forceps, snaring of the handle with a nylon loop, and traction on the distal (bristle) end. Experimental forceps designed for the endoscopic removal of foreign bodies are described. Removal of foreign bodies from the oesophagus may be safer when flexible rather than rigid instruments are employed whenever the size and nature of a foreign body makes this possible. Removal of suitable foreign bodies from the stomach utilizing fibreendoscopy is quicker, simpler, and probably safer than surgical removal.

Notes and activities

New Liver Failure Unit at King's College Hospital, London

An intensive care unit expressly for patients with acute liver failure was formally opened at King's College Hospital by Sir Douglas Black on 9 October. The new Unit, to be directed by Dr Roger Williams, complements the other clinical and research facilities of the Liver Unit, and was provided by the Department of Health at a cost of £80 000.

The new Unit is designed to care for two patients at any one time. It is equipped with the latest monitoring devices, including facilities for continuous electroencephalographic and cardiac recording. It also contains a small operating theatre for placing arteriovenous shunts and other procedures likely to be needed with the development of artificial liver support systems. Care has been taken, by special air-filtering systems, to reduce the risks of cross infection and to protect staff and patients alike from virus B hepatitis. X-ray equipment within the Unit can be operated by remote control and the self-contained suite has, in addition, changing rooms for nursing and medical staff.

Provisional International Nomenclature of Diseases of the Gastrointestinal Tract

The Council for the International Organization of Medical Sciences has published a booklet, 'Provisional international nomenclature of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract'. It can be obtained from Dr S. Btsh, Executive Secretary, c/o World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, at a special price for members of the British Society of Gastroenterology of Sw. frs. 7.50.

Future Meetings of the British Society of Gastroenterology

In an attempt to prevent future meetings clashing with those of other societies the following arrangements have been made: 29-30 March, 1974, Nottingham (closing date for abstracts 19.1.74); 19-21 September, 1974, Birmingham (closing date for abstracts 22.6.74); 11-12 April, 1975, Southampton; 25-27 September, 1975, Oxford; Spring 1976, ? London; 28 September-2 October, 1976, ? Aviemore.

Symposium on Prostaglandins in Medicine

A symposium on prostaglandins in medicine organized by the Medical Research Council Gastroenterology Unit will be held at the Avery Jones Postgraduate Medical Centre in the Central Middlesex Hospital on Friday 1 March 1974.

The programme will include:

Biochemistry and distribution

Dr Harvey Main

Measurement in biological fluids

Dr Keith Hillier

Role in inflammation and fever

Dr Sergio Ferreira

Mechanism of action of anti-inflammatory drugs

Dr Roderick Flower

Prostaglandins and inflammation of the skin

Dr Malcolm Greaves

Pharmacology of actions of prostaglandins on human smooth muscle

Dr Alan Bennett

Prostaglandins and asthma

Dr Maurice Cuthbert

Prostaglandins and heartburn

Dr George Misiewicz

Prostaglandins and peptic ulcer

Dr Alvin Newman

Prostaglandins and diarrhoea

Dr John Cummings

Panel discussion

Future therapeutic implications

The registration fee of £3.00 will cover meals and refreshments.

Application forms can be obtained from Dr J. J. Misiewicz, MRC Gastroenterology Unit, Central Middlesex Hospital, London, NW10 7NS. Tel: 01-965-5733, ext. 289.

Oxford Course on Gastroenterology

A three-day course on gastroenterology will be held at Oxford from 6 to 9 January 1974.

This course is designed for consultants and registrars, including those who do not specialize in gastroenterology. It will consist of selected topics which are of current interest in relation to the normal functioning of the digestive system and its diseases. The course will be held in the Witts lecture theatre in the Radcliffe Infirmary. The fee for the course will be £10.00. For further particulars apply to Dr S. C. Truelove, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Seminar on Piles and Perianal Lesions

A seminar on piles and perianal lesions will be held at BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JR on Friday, 22 February 1974, with Mr J. Alexander Williams as Chairman.

MORNING SESSION 10 am

- 10.00 Haemorrhoidectomy—Mr Peter Hawley
 10.45 Coffee
 11.00 The Conservative Management of Haemorrhoids
 Anal dilatation—Mr Michael D. Lord

Freezing—Mr K. Lloyd Williams
 Rubber band ligation—Dr Harry Liegois
 General discussion and summing up

12.45–1 p.m. Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION 2 pm

- 2.00 Gonorrhoeal Proctitis—Dr R. D. Catterall
 2.45 Non-specific Distal Proctitis—Dr S. Truelove
 3.30 Tea
 3.45 Fistula and Fissure—Mr A. G. Parks
 4.20 Pruritus Ani—Dr Basil Morson

Notes on books

Liver edited by Stuart J. Saunders and John Terblanche. (Pp. xi + 416; illustrated. £6.00). Pitman Medical, London. 1973. This volume contains the proceedings of the International Liver Conference with special reference to Africa held in January 1973 under the auspices of the South African Medical Research Council and the University of Cape Town. Specialists from 18 countries took part and the main discussions are recorded. The speed of publication makes this a particularly valuable record.

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Man Vol. 3. (Pp. 271. £2.25; Sw.fr. 18.–) Lyon, International Agency for Research on Cancer. 1973. Distributed for IARC by the World Health Organization, Geneva. This is the third volume of a series of monographs organized by the International Agency for Research on Cancer bringing together experimental and epidemiological information on many chemicals. This volume covers polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heterocyclic compounds.

Clinics in Gastroenterology Vol. 2 No. 3 Guest Editor, Richard B. McConnell. (Pp. vii + 487-724. Subscription price per annum: £9.00). W. B. Saunders Co. Ltd., London, Philadelphia, and Toronto. 1973. This is another major contribution to the 'Clinics in gastroenterology' series covering genetic aspects of a number of alimentary conditions including Hirschsprung's disease, cystic fibrosis, gastric and duodenal ulcer, hormone-secreting tumours, liver disease, pancreatitis, and inherited conditions causing gastrointestinal bleeding.