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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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- Wood, I. J. (1959). Chronic nutritional disease of the liver and pancreas: an Australian study. In *Proceedings of the World Congress on Gastroenterology, Washington, May, 1958*, edited by A. H. Aaron *et al.*, vol. I, pp. 695-703. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore.

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## The May 1974 Issue

### THE MAY 1974 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

- Fat-reduced diet in the symptomatic treatment of small bowel disease H. ANDERSSON, B. ISAKSSON, AND B. SJÖGREN
- Fat-reduced diet in the treatment of hyperoxaluria in patients with ileopathy HENRIK ANDERSSON AND RUDOLF JAGENBURG
- Essential fatty acid deficiency in patients with lesions of the gastrointestinal tract SIMON WAPNICK, DAPHNE A. NORDEN, AND DAWN J. VENTURAS
- Jejunal mucosal immunoglobulin-containing cells and jejunal fluid immunoglobulins in adult coeliac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis M. LANCASTER-SMITH, PARVEEN KUMAR, R. MARKS, M. L. CLARK, AND A. M. DAWSON
- Sprue in the Middle East: five case reports M. R. HAENEY, R. D. MONTGOMERY, AND R. SCHNEIDER
- The cell population of the upper jejunal mucosa in tropical sprue and postinfective malabsorption R. D. MONTGOMERY AND A. C. I. SHEARER
- Hydroxystearic acid and diarrhoea following ileal resection H. S. WIGGINS, J. H. CUMMINGS, AND JOY R. PEARSON
- Paraproteins with antibody activity in acute viral hepatitis and chronic autoimmune liver diseases MARIA E. B. ROUX, A. FLORIN-CHRISTENSEN, R. M. ARANA, AND DEBORAH DONIACH
- Alpha fetoprotein in metastatic gastric carcinoma J. KELLEHER, SISTER COLUM, C. DOYLE, T. HENNESSY, AND M. J. WHELTON
- <sup>67</sup>Gallium scanning in the diagnosis of liver disease OLIVER JAMES, E. J. WOOD, AND SHEILA SHERLOCK
- Liver iron concentration, stainable iron, and total body storage iron MICHAEL BARRY
- Acute toxic dilatation of the colon in Crohn's colitis A. J. BUZZARD, W. N. W. BAKER, P. R. G. NEEDHAM, AND R. E. WARREN
- Progress report*  
Inhibition of gastric secretion by the pyloric antrum M. H. WHEELER
- Notes and activities

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 9JR, price 87½p.

## Notes and activities

### American Gastroenterological Association at San Francisco

The 1974 Digestive Disease Week started on 19 May in San Francisco with a very comprehensive postgraduate course on peptic ulcer disease. The American highlight of the course was a thoroughly scientific assessment of the medical treatment of duodenal ulcer by J. S. Fordtran, which emphasized the difference in approach to this topic in the United States and the United Kingdom. The British contributors to the symposium distinguished themselves, as later throughout the week, by the professional standard of the content and presentation of their papers. Indeed, the superb quality of John Alexander-Williams' slides evoked spontaneous applause! Sir Andrew Kay presented a masterly summary of the surgical approach to duodenal ulceration in the guest oration during lunch.

Other special symposia during the week included 'The use of antibodies in gastroenterology', 'The liver and drug metabolism', 'Jaundice: new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches', 'Surgery on Crohn's disease', and 'Perspectives in paediatric gastroenterology'.

The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy held a postgraduate course which was extremely well attended. The technical advances in this field have been quite remarkable and greater than in any other field of gastroenterology. During the scientific meeting of the Society, Peter Cotton gave the Roche lecture entitled 'So who needs teaching?' The quality of the papers presented at the Research Forum of the AGA seemed rather less substantial than in previous years. Particularly interesting is the very complex and confusing situation which has been reached in the immunoassay of the gastrointestinal hormones, due in part to the apparent nature of the subject and also to some major technical difficulties. Perhaps the greatest interest of the meeting was aroused by three papers, and one guest lecture by Professor James Black (the inventor of the drug), on the topic of Metiamide, reflecting the enormous importance of, and interest in a drug which promises to help with the management of duodenal ulcer. Experience on the suppression of night acid secretion by Metiamide was reported by

J. J. Misiewicz and G. J. Milton-Thompson and their colleagues from the Central Middlesex Hospital Medical Research Council Gastroenterology Unit and the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth.

The plenary sessions of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease heard from Hofmann and his colleagues that bile again becomes supersaturated soon after discontinuing chenodeoxycholic acid therapy, and recurrence of gallstones was noted in patients whose treatment had been discontinued. Prophylaxis with chenamic acid may therefore be necessary. In order to study this and related problems, the National Institutes of Health have made available many hundreds of thousands of dollars to set up a multicentre investigation. In a similar fashion some millions of dollars have been allocated for a centre for the study of peptic ulceration. It seems that the Rothschild principle is being applied to gastroenterological research in a truly magnificent manner. This approach produced a hydrogen bomb and a return ticket to the moon and, for the sake of our patients, we must wish it well. It makes one just a little sad that this sort of stimulus to research always occurs in the United States.

K.G.W.

### International Symposium on Artificial Liver Support Systems

An international symposium on artificial liver support systems for acute liver failure will be held at King's College Hospital, London, and the Research Division of Smith & Nephew Ltd on 2 and 3 September 1974. Included in the scientific programme will be sessions on potential toxins in hepatic failure, adsorbents and their properties, biocompatibility, design of perfusion systems, as well as initial results in animal models and patients. For further details and registration forms please contact Dr Roger Williams, Liver Unit, King's College Hospital, London, SE5 8RX.

### Advanced Postgraduate Course in Gastroenterology

The thirteenth annual course in gastroenterology, organized by the Central Office of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, will be held from 4 to 29 November 1974. The course is limited

to 25 selected doctors who have a special interest in the field of gastroenterology. It will consist of lectures and clinical demonstrations covering the diagnosis and management of patients suffering from all types of gastroenterological disorder. Biochemical, radiological, and isotopic techniques will also be discussed and current research in these fields emphasized.

The venue for teaching sessions will include: Royal Free Hospital (Professor Sheila Sherlock), Royal Postgraduate Medical School (Professor C. C. Booth), Central Middlesex Hospital (Sir Francis Avery Jones), West Middlesex Hospital (Dr N. F. Coghill), St Mark's Hospital (Mr C. V. Mann), King's College Hospital (Dr Roger Williams), and St Bartholomew's Hospital (Dr A. M. Dawson).

Lecturers from other London hospitals will also take part.

In addition to the course, it may be possible to arrange a further week's clinical attachment to one of the participating units.

The course is approved under the Department of Health's advanced postgraduate training scheme for senior doctors working in the National Health Service in England and Wales. It is equally open to any doctor with suitable experience to make an application.

The fee for the course is £60. There may also be an additional charge to cover catering costs.

Application forms are available from the Secretary to the Gastroenterology Course, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ.

### American Course in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Under the aegis of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy a postgraduate course on gastrointestinal endoscopy will be offered, emphasizing techniques and applications, on Thursday 7 November and Friday 8 November 1974, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at Monroe Hall auditorium of the Department of Education of the Ochsner Foundation, with a faculty selected from Louisiana State University Medical Center, Tulane University Medical Center, and the Ochsner Foundation, with additional visiting authoritative faculty members from the continental United States and from Europe.

For further information contact Dr Gordon McHardy, 3638 Saint Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70115.

#### **Fifth International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility**

The fifth international symposium on gastrointestinal motility will meet at the University of Leuven, Belgium, on 3, 4, 5 and 6 September 1975. The theme will be: 'Nature and control of gastrointestinal motility—normal and abnormal mechanisms'. Abstracts of reports, dealing with basic and clinical aspects of gastrointestinal motility, will be considered for presentation by an international programme committee. The abstracts should not exceed 300 words. Time and facilities will allow no more than 100 participants. Advance registration is required. Abstracts and requests to attend should be submitted to the Programme Committee by 1 April 1975 at Fifth International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility, p.a. G. Vantrappen, Akademisch Ziekenhuis St. Rafaël, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

#### **International Symposia on Gastrointestinal Hormones**

A committee has been formed to plan international symposia on gastrointestinal hormones. The members are: Morton I. Grossman, Los Angeles (chairman); Werne Creutzfeldt, Göttingen; R. A. Gregory, Liverpool; and Viktor Mutt, Stockholm. The symposia will be held every two alternating years with the international symposia on gastrointestinal motility. The first symposium will be held in the autumn of 1976.

## Notes on books

**The Small Intestine** edited by Brian Creamer. **Tutorials in Postgraduate Medicine Volume 4.** (Pp. 310 £4.50.) William Heinemann Medical Books, London. 1974. This book aims to be a postgraduate tutorial with a mixture of knowledge and stimulation. It does not seek to be a comprehensive textbook but rather a guide to modern thinking on the small intestine. The scope covers normal anatomy and physiology, methods of investigation and the pathophysiology of the malabsorption syndromes. Specific diseases, infections, and infestations are discussed, and there is a full section on paediatric disorders of the small intestine. Tropical sprue, cholera, and kwashiorkor are dealt with in some detail. The whole orientation is from the clinician's point of view and the physiological and pathological descriptions are presented in this light. This is a successful and important contribution to British gastroenterology.

**Gastroenterology** edited by Abraham Bogoch. (Pp. xiii + 1358; illustrated. £28.15.) McGraw-Hill Book Co., Ltd, New York, London, etcetera. This is a Canadian multiple-author textbook of gastroenterology including the liver and pancreas. There is a section on the relationship of the gastrointestinal tract and other body systems, and the section on the skin and the gut is particularly well done. A high standard is maintained through this large volume.

**Basic Gastro-enterology Including Diseases of the Liver** 2nd ed. By J. M. Naish and Alan E. Read. John Wright & Sons Ltd, Bristol 1974. (461 pages, £7.50.) This is a revised and expanded second edition with much illustration and tabular material assembled to supplement and summarize the text. It is an amazingly complete review of gastroenterology, including liver diseases, and an important contribution to British gastroenterology. It will have a wide appeal.

**Nutritional Problems in a Changing World** Edited by Dorothy Hollingsworth and Margaret Russell. Applied Science Publishers, Barking 1973. (309 pages, £10.) This book records the proceedings of the British Nutrition Foundation Conference held at Churchill College, Cambridge, in

1973. The conference was called to discuss present and future nutritional problems in affluent societies and the problems of food fortification, with special consideration given to the nutritional needs of the elderly. Papers were presented on nutrition and public health; problems of obesity in children and adults; and the role of dietary fibre.

**Nutritional Deficiencies in Modern Society** edited by Alan N. Howard and I. McLean Baird. (Pp. 109. £1.30.) Newman Books Ltd London. 1973. This publication is based on a Food Education Society symposium. It covers iron-deficiency anaemia, dietary deficiencies of vitamin C, B<sub>12</sub>, and folic acid, calcium and vitamin D. There is a chapter on trace elements in nutrition, and also a section on malnutrition due to malabsorption. A small but well documented publication.

**Vagotomy on Trial.** Edited by Alan G. Cox and J. Alexander-Williams. (Pp. xii + 179; illustrated. £4.70.) William Heinemann Medical Books. 1973. This volume is based on a one-day symposium in Holland. Professor Herry Muller of the University of Rotterdam invited a team of European authorities to discuss vagotomy operations. In addition to the papers given further chapters have been prepared from three panel discussions on the role of vagotomy in gastric ulcer, its use in the emergency situation, and other problems.