Notes and activities

International Cancer Research Technology Transfer Programme (ICRETT)

The purpose of the ICRETT Programme is to enable investigators from two different countries to (1) carry out brief research which will develop, improve, or modify new or specialised technology or methodology and will clearly contribute towards the progress of cancer research; (2) engage in the collaboration required for comparing the results of research in different countries; (3) meet together so that new methods can be used by investigators in another country. The funds available will allow investigators of any nationality to visit a research centre or centres in another country for a period not exceeding 21 days. Funds will not be provided for attending scientific meetings of a general nature or for supporting a series of lectures or seminars in one or more countries. Applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year. Additional information and application forms may be obtained from: International Union Against Cancer, Conseil-Général 3/1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

‘Gastroenterologie Clinique et Biologique’

A new French journal, Gastroenterologie Clinique et Biologique, has been formed by the fusion of Les Archives Francaises des Maladies de l’Appareil Digestif and Biologie et Gastroentérologie under the editorship of P. Bernades and J.-P. Benhamou on the clinical side and S. Bonfils on the biological side. There will be 10 issues a year and it is published by Masson (120, bd. St. Germain, 75280 Paris Cedex 06) from whom details may be obtained.

New American Physiological Society Journal

American Journal of Physiology: Endocrinology, Metabolism and Gastrointestinal Physiology is a new monthly journal for scientists who are working in the fields named in the title. The editor is Dr. R. Levine. Details and sample issues may be obtained from The American Physiological Society, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20014, USA.

Royal College of Pathologists

A symposium on the microbiology of the gastrointestinal tract in health and disease will be held in Edinburgh on 15 July 1977. Details from R.C.P., 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1

Liver Unit, King’s College Hospital

An international symposium on 'Immune reactions in liver disease, pathogenetic role and developments in immunotherapy' will be held at the Royal Society, London, 17, 18 October 1977. Apply Advisory Services Medical Symposium, Ltd., 28 Welbeck Street, London W1.

British Council Residential Course

A British Council residential course on computerised tomography of the whole body and ultrasound will be held at Northwick Park Hospital, 27 November to 9 December 1977. It will be limited to overseas participants who should apply through the British Council in their own country. Fee £415. Deadline for receipt of applications in London: 15 July 1977.

Books


With so many reports of various modifications of methods of double contrast examination of the colon one rather loses track of what is being modified. However, Professor Welin, assisted in this book by his wife, is the pioneer of the modern technique, having developed this at Malmo in the early 1950s.

The first section includes a historical survey together with details of preparation and technique. The preparation recommended here is clearly satisfactory, but any survey of the literature reveals the usual bewildering array of methods used to achieve colonic cleansing, without which, of course, accurate diagnosis is impossible. A report of only two cases of perforation—by instrumental injury—in some 60,000 examinations testifies to the safety of the technique. Succeeding chapters deal essentially with polyps, villous tumours, diverticular disease, and inflammatory disease. The illustrations throughout are of the quality to which all radiologists should aspire in their colonic work, although these must largely be responsible for the rather daunting price of the book. It is regrettable that the polyp section does not take into account the vital contribution of colonoscopy to this field and I do not personally accept the significance of what the authors describe as an intermediate polyp. With regard to inflammatory disease, the differentiation between Crohn's disease and colitis is readily made when classical features of either disease are present; the difficulty lies in the group where the features are equivocal. The authors claim that 'contrast stripes' in Crohn's disease afford a pathognomonic differentiation. While this may be broadly true—as is discrete ulceration within an otherwise normal mucosa—it seems that at times the cobblestoning in one may closely resemble active inflammation with polyposis in the other (compare Figs. 68 and 82). Furthermore, the assertion that Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis may coexist in the colon would not, I think, stand up to critical pathological analysis today.
Notes and books

This book is not intended as a textbook, but it is a well-produced monograph which is a reflection of the work of an expert and a worthy broadside into the ranks of those who still support the single contrast barium enema.

B. M. THOMAS

The second edition of Polyoid Lesions of the Gastrointestinal Tract has brought this popular monograph up to date. The original format has been retained and the important data from the Massachusetts General Hospital reproduced again. To this have been added the advances brought about by the advent of fibredoscopy in the last few years.

Most of these polyoid lesions occur in the colon and rectum and there are good sections on the technique of colonoscopy and the way in which polyps should be removed. The authors give an authoritative account of the management of polyoid lesions and state clearly the policy which should be adopted for polyoid adenomas with focal malignant change.

This is a well-written informative book which will be of value to the surgeon particularly interested in colorectal disease and to gastroenterologists in general.

P. R. HAWLEY


This book is the result of a retrospective National Survey of 192 cases of large bowel Crohn’s disease treated surgically. The book begins with a careful description of the pathology, but the bulk of it is clinically orientated with a particular emphasis on surgical treatment. The data have been painstakingly collected from the many centres providing cases for the study and are clearly set out in tables. The aim of the nationwide approach was to make the series as large as possible, but one consequent disadvantage has been that the variety of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches employed by the different hospitals involved may have affected the significance of some of the results. For example, only about two-thirds of the patients had had a sigmoidoscopy and only half of these a rectal biopsy.

Written in French, this is not a book for the general reader. For those with a special interest in Crohn’s disease, it reveals that the disease and its problems are the same in France as in the rest of Europe and the USA. As a source of information of the French experience and medical literature, the monograph may find its way to medical libraries, but not, one suspects, to many private bookshelves.

R. BURNHAM

Current Surgical Practice vol I. Edited by John Hadfield and Michael Hobson. (Pp. 268; illustrated; £14-00 hardback, £6-95 paperback). Arnold: Maidenhead. 1976. This book brings together postgraduate lectures given at the Royal College of Surgeons and, although primarily arranged as part of the training for the Fellowship, nevertheless it is remarkable how much of the book is relevant to gastroenterological medical practice. Ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease, peptic ulcer, pancreatitis, abnormal haemostasis, and intestinal obstruction are all common ground between physicians and surgeons. It is a book which should be easily available to junior medical and surgical staff. Each section brings the subject up-to-date in a way particularly appropriate to clinical practice.

The whole process of fibrosis and scarring has numerous implications for clinicians and pathologists and this supplement brings together scientific studies from a wide front. Although rheumatology and immunology are well represented, liver diseases and intestine diseases are included, as well as a study on practolol peritonitis.

Pathology of Tumours of the Oral Tissues By R. B. Lucas. Third edition (Pp. 426; illustrated; £16-50). Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1976. This book is primarily intended for the diagnostic pathologist whose principal concern is the histological evaluation of biopsy and operation material. For the benefit of clinicians with a limited knowledge of pathology there is an account of the commoner lesions. The book is particularly well produced and the illustrations are excellent.

People and Food Tomorrow Edited by Dorothy Hollingsworth and Elisabeth Morse. (£10). Applied Science Publishers: Barking, Essex.

In 1973 the British Nutrition Foundation held its first conference on ‘Nutritional problems in a changing world’ and this has been followed by a second conference in 1976 on ‘People and food tomorrow’ reported in this book. The implications of the developing countries as they progress, aspire towards the western way of life, bring in many considerations of the restraints on adequate nutrition imposed by social, economic, and agricultural factors. It is a field in which medical considerations remain only just below the surface and, indeed, are very relevant to physicians who take a wider view of their responsibilities. Although we tend to think more of diseases of affluence in western countries, the deficiency states related to vitamin D, iron, and folate may assume clinical significance and there is increasing interest in other of the mineral micro-nutrients. This is an admirable book for widening the horizon of the general physician, particularly those who have a gastroenterological bias.
The Double Contrast Examination of the Colon, Experiences with the Welin Modification

B. M. Thomas

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