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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.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of 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. 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. A short summary should be provided at the beginning of the paper.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or international reply coupon is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS Only essential Figures and Tables should be included. *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. Magnification scales, if necessary, should be lettered on these. Where possible, prints should be trimmed to column width (i.e. 2½ in). *Diagrams* These will usually be reduced to 2½ in wide. Lettering should be in either Letraset or stencil, and care should be taken that lettering and symbols are of comparable size. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text, they should be marked on the back with Figure numbers, title of paper, and name of author. All photographs, graphs, and diagrams should be referred to as Figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet. *Tables* Tables should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals and each typed on a separate sheet.

ETHICS Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *British Medical Journal* (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 MEq/l. All measurements except blood pressure should be expressed in SI units (see *Journal of Clinical Pathology* (1974), 27, 590-

597; *British Medical Journal* (1974), 4, 490), followed by traditional units in parentheses. Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

REFERENCES In the text these should follow the Harvard system—that is, name followed by date; James and Smith (1970). If there are more than two authors they should be cited as James *et al.* (1970) even the first time that they appear. The list of references should be typed in double spacing and in alphabetical order on a separate sheet. Such references should give the author's name, followed by initials and year of publication in brackets, *the title of the article quoted*, the name (in full) of the journal in which the article appeared, the volume number in Arabic numerals, followed by numbers of first and last pages of article.

CORRECTIONS other than printer's errors may be charged to the author.

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ISSN 0017-5749

Notes and activities

British Society of Gastroenterology Research Funds

Applications are invited for financial support for research, education and travel or equipment from the Society's research funds. For application forms and further information concerning specific guidelines, please contact the Honorary Secretary, University College Hospital, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ. Closing dates for applications: 1 February and 1 August.

Hepatic Diseases Updated (Fourth Annual International Postgraduate Course), Royal Free Hospital

This course will be held from 7-9 June 1979 and topics will include alcoholic liver injury, hepatorenal syndrome, shunt surgery, cholangiography, acute and chronic hepatitis, slide seminar, case discussion.

Speakers include: J. P. Benhamou (Paris), J. Galambos (Atlanta), N. Greenberger (Kansas City), H. Popper (New York), E. Schiff (Miami), and the staff of the Royal Free Hospital. Details from Sheila Sherlock MD, Director, Medical Unit, Royal Free Hospital, London NW3 2QG.

Books

Essentials of Paediatric Gastroenterology Edited by J. T. Harries. (Pp. 367. Illustrated. £11.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1977.

This is an edited book of 20 fairly short chapters written largely by members of the department of the editor with the addition of contributions from several other English authorities. As the title infers, chapters are designed to cover the essential features only of the particular disorders being discussed and to provide representative literature references. As such, it is a very useful book of moderate size and expense for those wishing to commence their study of paediatric gastroenterology and it will guide them to further reading.

The book is divided into three parts: the first discusses normal structure and function of the gut with a useful summary of prenatal development, together with a chapter on investigatory techniques. The latter contains brief discussions of individual techniques and might have

been better placed at the end of the book. Discussion of some investigations is superficial, especially that of endoscopy as no references critically appraising its value in childhood are given. Part 2 discusses disorders of the bowel, and Part 3 those of the liver and pancreas. In Part 2 some chapters offer little more than can be found in major paediatric textbooks, but that of Walker-Smith and Kilby on small intestinal enteropathies and the discussion of infective diarrhoea and vomiting are both valuable and up to date. About one quarter of the book is devoted to liver problems, perhaps at the expense of some others, and to the exclusion of discussion of disorders of the upper gastrointestinal tract.

This is obviously a volume that a consultant general paediatrician or paediatrician in training will find excellent in guiding him with clinical problems related to the gastrointestinal tract, but will perhaps be of less value to the established paediatric gastroenterologist wishing to consider a problem in depth.

CHARLOTTE M. ANDERSON

The Esophagus Handbook and Atlas of Endoscopy M. Savary and G. Miller. (Pp. 248. Illustrated. Sw. Fr. 180 (approx. \$98 or £53.73).) Gassman AG: Solothurn, Switzerland. 1978.

As the authors of this book point out, oesophagoscopy was the domain of the ENT specialist for more than half a century. Now, the gastroenterologist routinely using upper gastrointestinal fiberoptic endoscopy has become increasingly aware of the pathophysiological processes which afflict the oesophagus. The publication of this handbook is therefore timely. The book is the result of a long and fruitful collaboration between a gastroenterologist and otorhinolaryngologist who have combined to distill their extensive experience into a superbly illustrated and comprehensive account of the examination of the normal and diseased oesophagus.

The first part deals with the techniques of oesophagoscopy and ancillary procedures. Rather more emphasis is placed on rigid than fiberoptic oesophagoscopy, but there are lucid sections on biopsy and the removal of foreign bodies. Cytological examination, sclerosis of varices, haemostasis, dilatation and palliative intubation are also discussed but less extensively covered. The detailed description of the normal oesophagus draws attention to the

subtle changes in mucosal folds, vascular pattern and motility, which are all too easily missed. Although this is a book culled from individual experience, more references to the international literature, especially on motility, would have been helpful.

It is in the extensive section on the abnormal oesophagus that this book excels. The outstanding colour photographs which have been taken with the rigid oesophagoscope clearly illustrate these diagnostically important points. There are equally good histological plates, radiographs, and explanatory black and white line diagrams where appropriate. The sections on reflux, oesophagitis, Barrett's oesophagus, and tumours are clear, and well-tabulated analyses of the authors own experience provide valuable data on the natural history of these conditions. This English edition, which has been published with the help of Duncan Colin-Jones, is eminently readable and beautifully produced with a wealth of useful information for the practising gastroenterologist. Despite its price, this book should be available in all departments of gastroenterology.

RICHARD H. HUNT

Ultrasonography of Digestive Diseases S. S. Weill. (Pp. 505. Illustrated. £38.) C. V. Mosby: Saint Louis. 1978.

This is the book that gastroenterologists interested in ultrasound have been waiting for. Professor Weill had concentrated his ultrasound work on the liver and pancreas, and this book is the result. It sums up his experience during the last 10 years and gives an excellent overall view of the subject. His insistence on the use of realtime scanning as an adjunct to static B-mode scanning is made much of, especially in regard to the pancreas. The Americans and British are gradually coming round to his way of thinking and time is likely to improve our accuracy of diagnosis in pancreatic problems. Illustrations are abundant and clear. The book is beautifully laid out and written with gallic humour which makes it relaxing to read. (The dedication at the front is the most humorous I have read and is worth a trip to your local bookstore just for that.) This book should be read by anyone who can afford it.

F. R. VICARY

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