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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.

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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.

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Simkins, pp. 163-176. Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam.
Wallace, W. A., Orr, C. M. E., and Bearn, A. R. (1977).
Perforation of chronic peptic ulcers after cimetidine.

British Medical Journal, 2, 865-866.
Winship, D. H. (1978). Cimetidine in the treatment of
duodenal ulcer. *Gastroenterology*, 74, 402-406.

The April 1979 Issue

THE APRIL 1979 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOW PAPERS

Immune status in Crohn's disease. 3. Peripheral
blood B lymphocytes, enumerated by means of
F(ab)₂-antibody fragments, Null and T lymphocytes
I. O. AUER, S. GÖTZ, E. ZIEMER, H. MALCHOW, AND
H. EHMS

The granuloma in Crohn's disease T. J. CHAMBERS
AND B. C. MORSON

Measuring intraepithelial lymphocytes, surface area,
and volume of lamina propria in the jejunal mucosa
of coeliac patients M. GUIX, J. M. SKINNER, AND
R. WHITEHEAD

Endoscopic retrograde brush cytology in patients
with primary and secondary malignancies of the
pancreas M. OSNES, A. SERCK-HANSEN, O.
KRISTENSEN, T. SWENSEN, S. AUNE, AND J. MYREN

Transnasal bile duct catheterisation after endoscopic
sphincterotomy P. B. COTTON, P. G. J. BURNEY, AND
R. R. MASON

Distribution of HLA histocompatibility antigens,
ABO blood groups and Rh antigens in alcoholic
liver disease M. MELÉNDEZ, L. VARGAS-TANK, C.
FUENTES, R. ARMAS-MERINO, D. CASTILLO, C. WOLFF,
M. E. WEGMANN, AND J. SOTO

Comparison of oral feeding of peptide and amino
acid meals to normal human subjects D. B. A.
SILK, Y. C. CHUNG, K. L. BERGER, K. CONLEY, M.
BEIGLER, M. H. SLEISENGER, G. A. SPILLER, AND Y. S.
KIM

Influence of intestinal transit time on azo-reduction
of salicylazosulphapyridine (Salazopyrin) P. A. M.
van HEES, J. H. M. TUINTE, J. M. van ROSSUM, AND
J. H. M. van TONGEREN

Nippostrongylus brasiliensis infection in the rat:
effect of iron and protein deficiency on the anthel-
mintic efficacy of mebendazole, pyrantel, piperazine,
and levamisole V. M. DUNCOMBE, T. D. BOLIN,
A. E. DAVIS, M. R. FAGAN, AND J. D. KELLY

Proximal stomach and antrum in stomach emptying
M. C. J. BARKER, I. COBDEN, AND A. T. R. AXON

Clinical trial

Rowachol—a possible treatment for cholesterol
gallstones J. DORAN, M. R. B. KEIGHLEY, AND
G. D. BELL

Case reports

Chronic non-specific ulcerative duodenojejunoileitis:
report of four cases R. MODIGLIANI, P. POITRAS, A.
GALIAN, B. MESSING, P. GUYET-ROUSSET, M. LIBESKIND,
J. L. PIEL-DESRUISSEAU, AND J. C. RAMBAUD

Progress report

Peptic ulcer in India and Bangladesh F. I. TOVEY

Notes and activities; Books

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON WC1H 9JR, price £3.50, including postage

Notes and activities

BSG and BSDE Spring Meeting

The British Society of Gastroenterology and the British Society for Digestive Endoscopy met in Hull on 29-30 March 1979. A BSG Teaching Half-Day, and splinter groups and scientific sessions of both Societies occupied the first day. The second day was devoted to BSG scientific sessions and at the Plenary Meeting Dr N. A. Wright delivered the BSG Research Medallist's lecture entitled 'Enterocyte turnover: homeostasis and disease'. Altogether 101 papers were presented to BSG and BSDE. The highlight of the meeting was the civic reception and dinner held at the Guildhall, with the President of the BSG, Dr C. C. Booth, in the chair. An enjoyable social programme was available for members and guests.

Course in Advanced Gastroenterology

This course will be held at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London from 25 to 28 June 1979. The course fee is £95.00. Further details may be obtained from the School Office, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Ducane Road, London W12 0HS.

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.

Books

Gastrointestinal Hormones and Pathology of the Digestive System Edited by M. Grossman, V. Speranza, N. Basso, and E. Lezoche. (Pp. 326. Illustrated. £22.05.) Plenum Press: New York and London. 1978.

Since most symposia seem—to the participants—to be enjoyable and constructive occasions, the wish to preserve them in book form is understandable. But there are pitfalls, and they are well displayed in this volume. The essentials of scientific publication are firm editing and peer review; in addition, comprehension is greatly helped by clear letterpress and

layout. Symposium organisers are often reluctant to lay down firm editorial guidelines in advance for fear of discouraging their contributors, but without such guidelines, contributions tend to vary widely in style and quality. The peer review process is formally absent, or, at most, confined to the selection of abstracts, but the true peer review process at a symposium is embodied in the discussions (Dr X: You do not seem to have any controls. Professor Y: Yes, I agree that is so, but we ran out of money and the patient discharged himself from hospital anyway...). To publish these papers without the associated discussion is to rob them of critical perspective; moreover, since it is unlikely that the speakers closely followed the printed text, it is incorrect for the book to be described as the 'proceedings' of an international symposium. Conceptually, the book is a bit of a muddle and the reader is not helped by the use of offset-litho to reproduce the typewritten text. Useful reviews by Mutt, Gregory, Polak, and Erspamer stand out in a medley of papers; of the latter, some are less than new, while others seem to be devoted to minutiae. As a whole, the book lacks direction and purpose. Grossman tells us, in the preface, that 'Suddenly neurophysiologists and endocrinologists have found that they have a great deal to discuss with each other', but the book contains neither neurophysiology nor discussion. The reader is plunged into the confusing jungle of current gut hormone research but given no signposts. Consequently, it is difficult to suggest who needs to buy this book. If the book has a message, it is to anyone planning the publication of a symposium.

D. L. WINGATE

The Kidney in Liver Disease Edited by Murray Epstein. (Pp. 374. Illustrated. \$32.50.) Elsevier North-Holland: New York. 1978.

This book reports the proceedings of an International Workshop on renal functional abnormalities in cirrhosis that was held at Miami, Florida, in 1976. Three themes were discussed—the factors mediating sodium retention in cirrhosis, the pathogenesis of ascites formation, and the management of the latter. Although it is quite likely that this comprehensive and well-referenced volume will become a standard text for those actively working in these areas, three chapters should appeal to those who have a general interest in

liver disease. Of these, the first two by Epstein and Wilkinson and colleagues deal with the abnormalities of sodium homeostasis in liver disease. They make absorbing reading, largely because there are major areas of disagreement, particularly with respect to the role of aldosterone in mediating sodium retention. Their experimental data are clearly presented, and due reference is made to each other's work. Moreover, these two chapters, which appear early on in the book, set the scene for later and more detailed discussions by others.

Later, the question is discussed at length as to whether sodium retention forms the basis of ascites formation (overflow theory), or whether ascites formation leads to a reduction in 'effective' extracellular volume and thence sodium retention (traditional theory). This area is the subject of the third notable chapter by Levy, who presents the results of his experimental work in dogs rendered cirrhotic by the ingestion of dimethylnitrosamine—in many respects this is the highlight of the book.

A whole section of the book is devoted to a detailed discussion of the role of the renin-angiotensin system in the control of renal function, including experiences of the administration of competitive angiotensin II analogues. The reader will require fairly extensive background knowledge, however, in order to assimilate much of this information.

Therapeutics is dealt with at the end of the book beginning with a succinct review of the use of diuretics in cirrhosis. Overall, however, this section is rather weak, the chapter on dialysis in liver disease already needs updating, and the reader will need to refer to the bibliography of the last chapter to assess the proper effectiveness of the Leveen-Type chronic peritoneal-venous shunt.

Overall, the book can be highly recommended to those with an active interest in the pathophysiology of renal function in cirrhosis. It will prove heavy going to those who only have a general interest in liver disease, not least of all because of the excessive use of abbreviations throughout the text. Will editors and publishers ever learn?

D. B. A. SILK