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Gut publishes 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 and figures 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. Manuscripts should follow the Vancouver conventions (see *Br Med J* 1979; 1: 532-5. *Gut* 1979; 20: 651-2). 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 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 *Br Med J* 1964; 2: 177).

SI UNITS All measurements except blood pressure are expressed in SI units. In the text they should be followed by traditional units in parentheses. In tables and illustrations values are given in SI units, but a conversion factor must be supplied. For general guidance on the International System of Units and some useful conver-

sion factors, see *The SI for the Health Professions* (WHO, 1977). Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

REFERENCES These follow the Vancouver system—that is, references numbered consecutively in the text and listed numerically with titles abbreviated in the style of *Index Medicus. Standard journal article*—(list all authors when six or less; when seven or more, list first three and add *et al.*): James A, Joyce B, Harvey T. Effect of long-term cimetidine. *Gut* 1979; 20: 123-4. NB: Accurate punctuation is essential.

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Notes and activities

Dr Heinz Karger Prize 1981

The Dr Heinz Karger Memorial Foundation invites the submission of original research papers on 'Intestinal absorption of peptides', for the 1981 Karger Prize of Sfr7000. The closing date is 28 February 1981. Details from Dr Heinz Karger Memorial Foundation, Allschwilerstrasse 10, Postfach, CH-4009 Basel, Switzerland.

Société Nationale Française de Gastro-Entérologie

The Society's next Research Forum and 5ème Journées Francophones d'Hépatogastro-Entérologie will be held at Toulouse in March 1981. Details from Professor Y Le Quintrec, Hospital Rothschild, 33 Boulevard de Picpus 75571, Paris, edex 12.C

International Symposium on Dietary Fibre in Human and Animal Nutrition

This symposium will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, 23-28 May 1982. Details from the Symposium Secretariat at University Extension, Massey University, PO Box 63, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

International Symposium on Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

This symposium will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, 7-9 September 1981, and will be organised in panels devoted to the aetiology, pathogenesis, and management of these diseases. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 28 February 1981. Details from Dr Daniel Rachmilewitz, Department of Gastroenterology, Hadassah University Hospital, PO Box 12000, Jerusalem, Israel.

Books

Neoplasms of the Colon, Rectum, and Anus Edited by Maus W Stearns. (Pp 206. Illustrated. £15.00.) John Wiley: New York, 1980.

This monograph sets out the methods and attitudes from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center of those clinicians who have had an especial interest in

tumours of the large gut and anus. The book is as much of a tribute to the authors as to their Institute, for providing a frame-work in which clinical results were documented so well that the book was possible.

There are 14 chapters by 13 authors, in 197 pages of easily-understandable text, tables, and photographs, plus a good index.

As always in a short review, the space for adverse comment is, perforce, longer than that for compliments. Thus, I hasten to say this book is a 'must' for all clinicians with a special or general interest in the subject and for the libraries of the institutions in which they work.

The chapters of special note are on epidemiology, early diagnosis, and those devoted to the management of metastatic carcinoma of the large bowel. Adenomas, and the rarer neoplasms of the large gut and anal tumours, are also well covered, and the text forms a useful reference source.

Sadly, the weakest part concerns the 'ordinary' surgical aspects of treatment for colorectal cancer. Little attention has been paid to the surgery for complex problems—bowel obstruction or perforation—which constitute 20-25% of patients presenting to most community hospitals. Furthermore, there is little guidance, or opinion, about some of the more contentious issues of today's therapy: the role of transverse colostomy to 'protect' the anastomosis in low anterior resection; the place of the end-to-end mechanical stapling devices; methods to salvage patients once complications of colorectal surgery have occurred. The description of the pull-through operation is too short and vague, and in the section on abdominoperineal resection of the rectum, the methods described would be considered by many to be outmoded and, on occasion, frankly 'incorrect'—siting functional stomas in main wounds, for example. The section on 'Care of the patient with a colostomy' is rather superficial, but gives some references for additional reading.

A useful, but incomplete, chapter is that devoted to the medical problems of patients in the perioperative period. Pain control and postoperative positive pressure ventilation are not described—both are relevant to the thesis of the chapter: that the maintenance of adequate cardio-respiratory function is crucial in the management of many of these patients.

Looking to the future, the discourse on immunological reactivity of patients with

colorectal cancer is worthwhile, for it attempts to make sense of a subject which is quite unclear at present, but it provides enough data to inform and to stimulate further interest.

For me, the highlight of the book is the chapter on the management of advanced colon and rectal cancer (Chapter 8—Horace Whiteley). In this difficult field, a sense of realism and empathy pervades the pages, with the patient's individual problem being the fulcrum of discussion. Emphasis on definitions of the different clinical patterns which present and possible treatment methods for each 'syndrome' is most helpful to clinicians who are attempting to treat such a patient.

The Editor (Maus W Stearns, Jr) has put together a most useful and inexpensive monograph. The defects of omission and commission in this volume prompt me to suggest that a sequel is required detailing the controversies in surgical technique that are currently being discussed. The views of the team of MSKCC on these subjects would make interesting reading.

L P FIELDING

Gastrointestinal Mucosal Blood Flow

Edited by L P Fielding (Pp. 240. Illustrated. £16.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, London, New York, 1980.

This is acknowledgedly a book for the super-specialist. It represents the proceedings of a small meeting (the date and place of which are not mentioned) which was well supported by industry. This individual contributions are of high level, and most of the experts in this field were assembled. The accent is rather more on gastric than on intestinal blood-flow, which reflects the very natural preoccupation with the relationship between peptic ulceration and mucosal supply. The coverage is excellent, and all the papers are brief and well edited. The very last contribution, from Professor Lundgrants' laboratory in Gothenberg, is a modest and authoritative condensation of the work of this famous team over the last 20 years. All in all, the Editor is to be congratulated on composing an excellent route map for those who wish to pursue research in this area.

ADRIAN MARSTON

BRITISH COUNCIL MEDICAL COURSES

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Applications must be received in London by 1 February 1981.

GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY 21–27 June 1981 in London

This course will be directed by Dr Paul Salmon, Consultant Physician, University College Hospital, London, assisted by Dr P B Cotton, Consultant Physician, The Middlesex Hospital, London, Dr C B Williams, Consultant Physician, St Mark's Hospital and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and Dr K F R Schiller, Consultant Physician, St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. The programme will cover theoretical and practical aspects of gastrointestinal endoscopy, highlighting recent advances in therapeutic endoscopy and will include case presentations. Particular emphasis will be made on live closed circuit television endoscopy with audience participation where possible.

Facilities will be available to course members to visit the Laser unit at University College Hospital and discuss recent advances in this field. The course is designed for experienced physicians, surgeons and pathologists with a special interest in gastroenterology.

There are vacancies for 45 members.

Fee including demi-pension accommodation £225.

Applications must be received in London by 7 March 1981.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from local overseas representatives of the British Council or from The Director, Courses Department, The British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1Y 2AA.

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