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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.

ILLUSTRATIONS *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. *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 *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.

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

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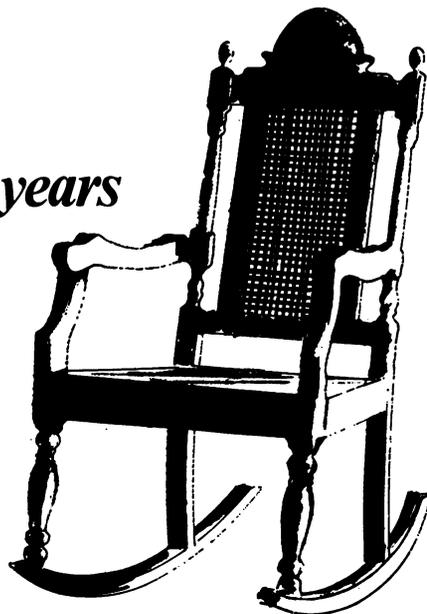


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BRITISH COUNCIL MEDICAL COURSES

Techniques and interpretation of gastrointestinal tract biopsy 1-6 November 1981 in London

The purpose of this course is to provide an up-to-date review of practical problems and recent developments in methods of obtaining histological and cytological material from the human gastrointestinal tract. It is intended to be of interest to the clinicians—gastroenterologists and surgeons—who need diagnostic information and take specimens, and also to those histopathologists and cytologists who process and interpret them. There will be particular emphasis on methods of improving collaboration and present techniques, as well as their relevance to the management of patients. The course will include an exhibition of relevant equipment, and practical live demonstrations on closed-circuit colour television of new techniques such as endoscopic polypectomy and macro-biopsy. The Directors of Studies will be Dr B C Morson, Consultant Pathologist, St Mark's Hospital, London and Dr P B Cotton, Consultant Gastroenterologist, The Middlesex Hospital, London. The working sessions will take place at St Mark's Hospital.

The course is open to senior pathologists, gastroenterologists, and surgeons interested in the techniques and interpretation of gastrointestinal tract biopsies.

There are vacancies for 45 members.

Fee including demi-pension accommodation £280.

Applications must be received in London by 15 June 1981.

Future courses planned

Renal transplantation 17-29 January 1982 in Glasgow

The Directors of Studies will be Dr J D Briggs and Mr D N H Hamilton of the Transplant Unit in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and Dr Heather Dick of the Department of Immunology in Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

There are vacancies for 30 members.

Fee to be announced.

Applications must be received in London by 1 September 1981.

Paediatric gastroenterology 7-19 March 1982 in Birmingham

The course will be directed by Professor A S McNeish, Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Birmingham, and Dr I T Harries, Reader in Paediatrics, Institute of Child Health, London.

There are vacancies for 35 members.

Fee including demi-pension accommodation £580.

Applications must be received by 30 September 1981.

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

Notes and activities

Thomas Cecil Hunt, CBE, DM, FRCP

Tommy Hunt, who died on 22 December 1980, played a leading role in British gastroenterology for over 50 years. In 1937 he was a founder member of the Gastroenterological Club, which became the BSG. He helped to inaugurate the European and Mediterranean Society of Gastroenterology and in 1956 was President of its meeting in London: this, indeed, was the first international congress in gastroenterology. He played an equally important role in the early days of the World Congress of Gastroenterology and his great skill in diplomacy enabled it to survive and flourish. For many years he had a key role in the affairs of the BSG and was President in 1956. The first paper in Volume 1 of *Gut* was written by him, recording the early history of the BSG.

He was a fine physician and one of the first to appreciate the importance of psychosomatic aspects. He studied endocrinology in Vienna under Professor Bauer while holding the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship, but his first research study related to duodenal intubation; this was undertaken while holding the Mackenzie Mackinnon Fellowship of The Royal College of Physicians. The work greatly impressed Sir Arthur Hurst and indeed determined his life-long interest in gastroenterology. Hunt was closely concerned for many years with clinical trials on duodenal ulcer using carbenoxolone and with the geographical epidemiology of alimentary tract cancer. His energy continued throughout his life and at the age of 70 he started the British Digestive Diseases Foundation; its success over the next 10 years in raising funds for research was largely due to the same enthusiasm and pleasing personality which had been so characteristic of his life's contribution to world gastroenterology.

F A J

C A Ewald Prize

The German Society for Digestive and Metabolic Diseases will be awarding, for the first time, the C A Ewald Prize of DM10 000 for outstanding work on the theme 'Pathogenesis of peptic ulcer'. Scientists under 40 years of age are eligible for the prize, and work should be submitted in either German or English, accompanied by a curriculum vitae and

a bibliography (five copies each). The work may have been published or accepted for publication in 1980 or 1981 or be unpublished. Applications must be received before 15 May 1981 and should be addressed to: Herrn Prof Dr W Creutzfeldt, Direktor der Medizinischen Universitätsklinik Göttingen, Humboldtallee 1, D-3400 Göttingen, West Germany.

World Congress of Gastroenterology, Digestive Endoscopy, and Colo-Proctology

This congress will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, 14-19 June 1982. Details from Stockholm Convention Bureau, Jakobs Torg 3, S-111 52 Stockholm, Sweden.

16th Meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver

This meeting will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 3-5 September 1981. Closing date for abstracts is 15 May 1981. Details from Helmer Ring-Larsen, Division of Hepatology, Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen, DK-2650 Copenhagen, Denmark. Telephone: (45 1) 47 14 11.

Books

Practical Points in Gastroenterology By E D Palmer. (Pp 279. Illustrated. £9.00.) Henry Kimpton: London. 1980.

This is an unusual book. It is neither a mini-encyclopaedia nor a series of lecture notes. Although it has been advertised as a gastroenterological dictionary, it is more than that, being one man's life-time experience of the speciality. Dr Palmer originally intended to write a handbook for interns and as such it is a useful work to keep in the ward office even though the drugs bear American names and SI units have yet to be introduced. There are chapters on all aspects of alimentary and liver disease including such Cinderella areas as the spleen, parasites, electrolytes, and gastrointestinal manifestations of other diseases. The text is not quite comprehensive and many will disagree with some of the author's unconventional views. However, he disarms criticism in a preface which explains that the book should be read as a companion to larger tomes and urges the student to use it as a template on which to develop his own experience. There are a number of idiosyncrasies—quaint pathological terms, eponyms, and a complete absence of references, so that the sources of his data

are not disclosed. It is not really a book for undergraduates, who might be tempted to memorise details without reading elsewhere. Similarly, it might mislead some candidates for higher examinations. However, it is an excellent text for their teachers and should encourage all thinking gastroenterologists to re-examine aspects of their practice.

N H DYER

Hepatic Biliary and Pancreatic Surgery Edited by John S Najarian and John P Delaney (Pp 739. Illustrated. £66.00.) Year Book Medical Publishers: London. 1980.

Each spring the University of Minnesota sponsors a meeting for continuing education in surgery. This book records the proceedings of the meeting held in 1979. It opens with the Judd Memorial Lecture given by Lord Smith—'Some lessons from the history of medicine'. There follow five sections, four of which (biliary tract, spleen, pancreas, and oesophageal varices) are almost entirely surgical but the remaining section (liver) contains much of medical interest. At the end of each session there is an account of the discussions which took place at the meeting. Many of the most distinguished names in American surgery took part and references are given at the end of each contribution. There are a number of self-evaluation quizzes.

The papers are generally of a high standard and deal with most of the relevant controversial topics. The information is mostly up to date and balanced so that the references represent a good starting point for anyone wishing to read up a particular subject. It is difficult to single out individual contributions from more than 50, but the contributions on bile duct strictures (Lord Smith) sclerosing cholangitis (Dr K W Warren), unusual bile duct lesions (Dr W P Longmore), and hepatic trauma (Dr A J Wait) were among the best. The contribution on liver abscess describes 20 consecutive patients who were treated by surgical drainage and antibiotics with no deaths; most other series record a less satisfactory result and in the discussion there is no mention of what is nowadays regarded by some clinicians as a reasonable alternative—namely, needle aspiration and antibiotics.

Some of the most enjoyable and instructive parts of the book were the discussion sessions. The one moderated by Dr R M Zollinger is a model of how to cajole and extract the most from a panel of experts. The self-evaluation quizzes

seem somewhat superfluous in a volume of this calibre.

This book can be thoroughly recommended except for the fact that it is a staggering £66. The price will no doubt limit its sale, which is a shame as there is much in it for any one interested in the surgery of the foregut.

JOHN DAWSON

Abdominal Operations (vols 1 and 2) By Rodney Maingot. (Pp 2577. Illustrated. £90.05.) Appleton-Century-Crofts: New York. 1980.

Six years separate the last two editions of Maingot's *Abdominal Operations*. This two-volume set remains a classic reference work. It is beloved and appreciated by large numbers of surgeons throughout the world and I have no doubt that it will remain so despite the cost of £90.05. The work remains a good buy and must still be recommended, although, on reading both this edition and its predecessor, I am increasingly of the opinion that a firmer editorial hand is now needed to weld the contributions of the 133 eminent authors into a less unwieldy, less repetitive, and less patchy work. I suspect that most surgeons, whether in training or in established practice, find that the strength of the book has lain, and continues to lie, in its description of the technique of operative surgery. The editor states in his Preface that fully 80% of the text and illustrations are devoted to the minutiae of present-day techniques. I would like to see this figure pushed closer to 100% in the next editions (and I am sure that there should be further editions), and would appreciate a reduction in the sometimes discursive accounts of modern diagnostic procedures and the clinical and pathological aspects of many lesions of the abdominal viscera. These aspects of surgical practice are better dealt with elsewhere and in my view detract from the real purpose of *Abdominal Operations*. Although many good new illustrations have been added, many of the older line-drawings, endoscopy plates, and photographs of operative specimens need to be replaced or dropped.

I have no doubt that many devotees of *Abdominal Operations* will disagree violently with any suggestion that the book be modified. I still feel that it represents the best buy of its kind on the market, but the time for more stringent editing has arrived.

D C CARTER

Books received

Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology vol. 15, suppl. 65. XI International Congress of Gastroenterology, *Carbenoxolone Symposium* Edited by Sir Francis Avery Jones, T C Hunt, and P I Reed. (Pp 120; illustrated) Oslo, Universitetsforlaget: 1980.

Gaceta Medica de Mexico Vol. 116. **Symposium on Alcoholism** (Pp. 61; price not stated). Mexico: Academia Nacional de Medicina, 1980.

Alcohol and the Gastrointestinal Tract Edited by Christiane Stock, Henri Sarles, and J C Bode (Pp 539; illustrated; price not stated). INSERM: Paris, 1980.

Familial Hyperbilirubinemia Edited by L Okolicsany (Pp 263; illustrated; £15.50). Wiley: Bognor Regis. 1980.

Prostaglandins and Related Lipids Volume 1 **Prostaglandin Synthetase Inhibitors: New Clinical Applications**. Edited by Peter Ramwell (Pp 410; illustrated; \$34). Alan Liss: New York, 1980.

The Genetics and Heterogeneity of Common Gastrointestinal Disorders Edited by Jerome I Rotter, I Michael Samloff, and David L Rimoin. (Pp 582; illustrated; price not stated). Academic Press: New York. 1980.

Biological Roles of Copper (Ciba Foundation Symposium 79, New Series). Edited by David Evered and Gerylwyn Lawrensen (Pp 343; illustrated; \$56.50). Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1980.

Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract Standardisation of Nomenclature, Diagnostic Criteria and Diagnostic Methodology. By Carroll M Leevy, Hans Popper, and Sheila Sherlock. (Pp 212; £12). Castle House Publications: Tunbridge Wells. 1979.

Advances in Ulcer Disease Edited by K-H Holtermuller and J-R Malagelada (Pp 558; illustrated; \$109.75). Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1981.

Drug Absorption Edited by L F Prescott and W S Nimmo (Pp 353; illustrated; £24.95) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1979.

Current Concepts of Digestion and Absorption in Pigs Edited by A G Low and I G Partridge. (Pp 222; illustrated; £6). National Institute for Research in Dairying: Shinfield, Reading. 1980.

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