

In treatment, alcohol, caffeine, and cocoa are excluded during the acute phase. Drug treatment begins with an antacid regimen of 80 mEq hourly for one week, one and three hours after meals and at bedtime for six weeks, and one hour after meals and at bedtime for two months. If anticholinergic drugs are used, the start is tincture of belladonna, 10 drops in water four times a day before meals and at bedtime. Although the imprint is September 1983 the USA drug lag means that treatment used in Europe for years such as ranitidine, pirenzepine, trimipramine, and colloidal bismuth, are referred to merely as undergoing clinical trials. Carbenoxolone received 11 lines, but spelled as carbenoxalone. Most chapters have case histories of individual patients and barium meal radiographs.

The *Contemporary patient management series* claims to be dedicated to the specialist as in depth guidelines for effective management, thorough background information, and current preferences for an advanced perspective. This specialist considers this monograph does not meet these objectives.

J H BARON

pathology of viral hepatitis is very well done and with beautiful illustrations. Clinical syndromes and pathology are very full and well covered. Treatment is a little flimsy but perhaps this reflects the paucity of effective measures anyway. References are profuse but it is a pity that they are not uniform in presentation and the titles of those quoted are not always given. This limits the value of the book as a reference source. It is inevitable, also, that although the book is published in mid-1983 references do not extend beyond 1982, and there are indeed very few for that year. Hepatitis B and its relation to hepatocellular carcinoma is a rapidly growing field, and this chapter includes 150 references (no titles!). I could, however, find only five from 1982, and three of these came from a monograph and not from the original literature.

This is an extremely important source book for those interested in all aspects of viral hepatitis in man. It should be included in all medical libraries, and the hepatologist should have it on his bookshelf.

SHEILA SHERLOCK

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## News

**Viral hepatitis: laboratory and clinical science**  
 Edited by F Deinhardt and J Deinhardt. (Pp. 585; illustrated; SwFr.238.) New York: Marcel Dekker, 1983.

This book is intended to fulfill the needs of students, clinicians, and laboratory investigators for an overview of the various aspects of human viral hepatitis from the history of the disease to the virology, from laboratory diagnosis to epidemiology, from clinical description and management of disease, with control measures, with a review of the background to our present knowledge and speculation on the developments to be expected. How far has the book succeeded in fulfilling these wide and laudable aims? The 34 contributors are certainly all distinguished and chosen from all over the world, Europe being unusually well represented for a multi-author offering. The number of authors and their differing backgrounds makes for a certain patchiness and for inevitable overlap. In some ways, however, this is an advantage, allowing the discerning reader to obtain different points of view on a particular aspect of viral hepatitis.

Among the many excellent chapters, the article by Arie Zuckerman on the history of hepatitis is particularly scholarly and comprehensive. The article by Bianchi and Gudat on the immuno-

### BSG Research Award 1983

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Awards Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the Award for 1983. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less (on 31 December 1983) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting in 1984. Applications (six copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ, closing date December 1983.

### Second British Congress of Lasers in Medicine and Surgery

This meeting will be held on 13 December 1983 at the Barbican Centre, London. Further details from Mr J A S Carruth, Consultant Surgeon, Royal South Hants Hospital, Graham Road, Southampton SO9 4PE.



# Viral hepatitis: laboratory and clinical science

Sheila Sherlock

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Updated information and services can be found at:  
<http://gut.bmj.com/content/24/12/1200.1.citation>

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