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Gut publishes original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in gastroenterology. The field is that of basic science and physiology pertaining to the alimentary tract, the liver and pancreas and that of alimentary, hepatic, biliary or pancreatic disease. Papers may deal with medical, surgical, or epidemiological aspects or with imaging. A case report will be accepted only if it deals with a clinical problem which has been studied in detail and the resulting data provide material for further research. Letters dealing with matters arising from articles published in *Gut*, or with topics of general professional interest are encouraged, but the correspondence column should not be used for publication of original data.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of the manuscript and figures should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK. 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 title page the name of the author should appear with initials (or distinguishing first 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. Excessive use of abbreviations is discouraged. Papers are accepted only on the written understanding, signed by all authors, that the data have not been published elsewhere in whole or in part and that all the authors agree to publication in *Gut*; previous publication in abstract form must be disclosed in a footnote. Papers must not be published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee.

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

ILLUSTRATIONS *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. *Diagrams* These will usually be reduced to 2¾ 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 conversion factors, see *The SI for the Health Professions* (WHO, 1977). **NB: 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 printers' errors may be charged to the author.

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show the position of the endoscope in relation to the area in view might be helpful, especially in the sections dealing with normal appearances; space for such an addition might be gained by reducing the number of examples of radiographs obtained by ERCP, as it might be argued that these belong within a textbook of radiology. It would be much easier to identify text references to illustrations if the identifying letters were printed in bold type.

The important point, however, about this book is not what might have been done by people who have not actually done it, but what has been achieved by this British team. This is an outstanding production, which is a credit to authors and publishers alike. It is balanced, comprehensive, clearly written and illustrated, and compulsively readable (or viewable). It is hard to imagine any gastroenterologist who would not benefit from access to it. The price may deter individual purchasers, but it should at least be made available wherever gastrointestinal endoscopy is practised.

DAVID WINGATE

Gastroenterology annual 3. Edited by F Kern Jr, and A L Blum. (Pp. 608; illustrated; Dfl 200.) Amsterdam/New York/Oxford: Elsevier, 1986.

The *Gastroenterology annual* has undoubtedly come to stay and is now virtually an indispensable resource for all of us in the field. The third volume is larger than its predecessors (47 reviewers, 18 chapters, 608 pages, more than 3000 references) and amply meets the objectives of the editors in providing a 'scholarly, up-to-date, critical review of the important new developments in gastroenterology'; the period reviewed is from July 1982 to December 1984. Topics covered include the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum, pancreas, absorption/malabsorption of nutrients, intestinal fluid and electrolyte transport and diarrhoeal diseases, gut peptides, neurophysiology of the GI tract, immunology and bacterial infections, inflammatory bowel disease, vascular physiology and pathophysiology, cancer of the alimentary tract, diseases of the colon rectum and anus, paediatric gastroenterology, selected issues in nutrition, diagnostic imaging techniques, and endoscopy of the upper and lower GI tract. The volume represents a highly critical and very readable account of everything that has moved in these fields in the last 18 months; the reviewers consider all the major papers that have been written in their fields, draw attention to doubts and controversies, link ideas and concepts critically for us, and where relevant, draw on historical perspectives as well.

There is something here for everyone including the practising physician and surgeon, the physiologist,

oncologist, basic scientist, and the fairly advanced trainee anxious to get a grip of what is happening in gastroenterology.

For myself I was particularly impressed by David Wingate's chapter on neurophysiology of the gastrointestinal tract in which he describes the experimental and conceptual developments which have led to the acceptance of the notion of an enteric nervous system; this is a splendid contribution. I was taken also by Brown's chapter on the immunology of the gastrointestinal tract and his account of the fascinating developments in coeliac disease and immunological 'trailers' in inflammatory bowel disease. Singleton's brisk review of inflammatory bowel disease and the chapter on cancer of the GI tract by Bresalier and others were every bit as good as their chapters in Volume 2.

Volume 3 of the *Gastroenterology annual* is a credit to its editors and reviewers; anybody who claims to have an interest in gastroenterology should buy it.

G P CREAN

Books received

Edsall summaries for health professionals No. 2. Food allergy Edited by P Scowan, G Medhurst, J Leslie, and D N Challacombe. (Pp. 96; illustrated; price not stated.) London: Edsall, 1985.

Complete guide to prescription and non-prescription drugs Edited by H Winter-Griffith. (Pp. 888; illustrated; \$12.95.) Tucson: HP Books Inc, 1985.

Notes on the evolution of a medical specialist 1907-1965 By Burrill B Crohn. (Pp. 79; not illustrated; \$5.00.) New York: BH Crohn Research Foundation, 1984.

News

Complex Polysaccharides - Challenges for Future Research on Dietary Fibre

This symposium will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London on 27 and 28 November 1986. For further information and an application form, contact Kate Holborow, Hill & Knowlton (UK) Ltd., 5-11 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8SH.

Correction

We regret that an error occurred in the article by Scarpignato and Micali, *Gut* 1986; 27: 499-504. On page 500, column 2 last line, RR₉₀ should have read RR₉₀, and Ago should have read A₉₀. This also applies on p 501, column 1, line 1 and 2.