the benefits when dietary treatment succeeds are well worth the effort involved.

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Non-penetrance and late appearance of polyps in families with familial adenomatous polyposis

EDITOR.—The paper by Evans et al is indeed of interest (Gut 1993; 34: 1389–93).
We reported a similar case in which the polyps presented at the age of 58. The patient had had abdominoperineal excision of the rectum for a carcinoma when aged 35. A barium enema performed by the stoma at the age of 33 was entirely normal with no evidence of polyposis. She then presented at the age of 58 with polyps on the stoma and a further barium enema performed by the stoma showed thousands of polyps throughout the colon. More than 1000 tubuloadenomas were confirmed on the histology specimen when the remaining colon was removed.

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Bowel dysfunction in young women

EDITOR.—Bowel dysfunction in young women with urinary retention (Gut 1993; 34: 1397–9) may result from inefficient cortical circuits and dopamine abnormalities lateralised to the right hemisphere in which the metabolic rate is higher in women. This hypothesis is supported by reports of dopaminergic neurotransmission subserving gastrointestinal protection and genitoaninary and immune functions. It is also supported by the onset of bowel and bladder symptoms after a flu like illness in an 18 year old nulliparous woman, and by infectious insult blocking neostriatal dopamine receptor, producing a Parkinsonian syndrome after 'mild' influenza in a 14 year old boy. The role of a change in dopamine pathways in a shared smooth muscle disorder between the bladder and the bowel is suggested by neurovascular complications of cocaine abuse.

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Digestive endoscopy, ultrasonography, and radiology

The 5th International Workshop of Digestive Endoscopy, Ultrasonography, and Radiology will be held in Marseille on 5–6 May 1994. Further details from: Professor J Sahel, Service d'Hépato-Gastroentérologie, Hôpital Sainte-Marguerite, 270 Bld de Ste Marguerite, BP 29, 13274 Marseille Cédex 9, France. Tel: 91 74 40 55, 91 75 48 41; fax: 91 75 23 04.

Letters to the editor. Notes

Digestive Disease Week

The Digestive Disease Week will be held on 14–20 May 1994 at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Further details from: Slack Incorporated, 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, NJ 08086-9447, USA. Tel: 609 848 1000; fax: 609 853–5991.
Bowel dysfunction in young women.

E H Friedman

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