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### EDITOR *British Medical Journal*

The object of *Gut* is to publish 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.

There will be a section devoted to short papers on laboratory and surgical techniques and methods of investigation where these are not part of a lesser survey.

**COMMUNICATIONS** Papers should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. Papers are accepted only on the understanding that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Board. 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 definition of the position held by each of the authors in the hospital or laboratory should be stated in a covering letter to the Editor. Communications should be kept short, and illustrations should be included when necessary; coloured illustrations are allowed only if monochrome will not satisfactorily demonstrate the condition. It is not desirable that results should be shown both as tables and graphs.

**ILLUSTRATIONS** Diagrams should be drawn in Indian ink on white paper, Bristol board, or blue-squared paper. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet and numbered to conform with the relevant illustrations. Photographs and photomicrographs should be on glossy paper, unmounted. TABLES should not be included in the body of the text, but should be typed on a separate sheet.

**ABBREVIATIONS** In general, symbols and abbreviations should be those used by British Chemical and Physiological Abstracts. In any paper concerning electrolyte metabolism, it is desirable that data be calculated as mEq./l. as well as (or alternatively to) mg./100 ml.

**REFERENCES** These should be made by inserting the name of the author followed by year of publication in brackets. At the end of the paper, references should be arranged in alphabetical order of author's name. Such references should give author's name, followed by initials and year of publication in brackets, *the title of the article quoted*, the name of the journal in which the article appeared, the volume number in arabic numerals, followed by numbers of first and last pages of article. Abbreviations are according to *World Medical Periodicals* (published by B.M.A. for World Medical Association), thus: Chandler, G. N., Cameron, A. D., Nunn, A. H., and Street, D. F. (1960). Early investigations of haematemesis. *Gut*, 1, 6-13.

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## Signposts

PEPSINOGENS AND PEPSINS (page 134). The present position.

PURGATION CAUSING MYENTERIC PLEXUS (page 139). This important study by Barbara Smith provides for the first time experimental evidence of neurotoxic effects of senna. This may explain the changes found in the 'cathartic colon' in man.

ULCERATIVE COLITIS (page 144). Serial estimations of the serum proteins, and in particular of the gamma globulins, may be a useful adjunct in the clinical evaluation of patients with severe ulcerative colitis.

RADIOLOGY OF ULCERATIVE COLITIS Workers at the Leeds colitis clinic provide a critical assessment of the observer error in radiological assessment (page 150) and important correlations between the x-ray findings and clinical prognosis, both short and long term (page 157).

CROHN'S DISEASE OF THE COLON (page 164). V. J. McGovern and S. J. M. Goulston from Sydney, Australia, report the clinical features, pathology, and management of 30 patients with Crohn's disease of the colon. Patients with ileal involvement were found to have a better prognosis than those with colonic involvement alone. The importance of lymphocytic aggregates and submucosal fibrosis histologically, as well as granulomas and fissures, is emphasized. All except three patients required surgical resection.

FOODS AND GASTRIC ACIDITY (page 177). J. E. Lennard-Jones, Janet Fletcher, and C. G. Shaw find further support for the hypothesis that a diet rich in protein reduces the acidity of the gastric contents.

A POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAECAL AND URINARY UROBILINOGEN ON AETIOLOGY OF PEPTIC ULCER (page 183). Faecal and urine urobilinogen rise in nearly all patients when their diet is changed from the masticatory, North India style, to the non-masticatory, South India type. The hypothesis is put forward that the higher levels of bile secretion may lead to duodenitis and predispose to duodenal ulceration.

PARTIAL BILIARY OBSTRUCTION (page 187). This paper demonstrates that the proliferation of bacteria in

the bile ducts may cause significant bacterial soiling of the small intestine as with a 'blind loop syndrome'.

CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE (page 193). A study on the immunoglobulins—IgG, IgA, IgM, and IgD—from the Royal Free Hospital, London.

VITAMIN B<sub>12</sub> ABSORPTION (page 199). Good reproducibility of the hepatic uptake test of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> absorption has been found in pernicious anaemia in patients after partial gastrectomy but some inconsistencies were found in patients with malabsorption.

INCREASED GASTRIC EMPTYING AND SMALL BOWEL TRANSIT TIME (page 203). Metoclopramide hydrochloride (Moxalone) has been shown to increase the rate of passage through the stomach and intestine, facilitating radiographic studies.

INTESTINAL ABSORPTION (page 206). This is a study from Czechoslovakia of the electrical activities across human foetal small intestine associated with absorption processes.

PANCREATIC SECRETION (page 214). This paper by H. Sarles and his associates provides evidence for the existence of a cephalic phase of pancreatic secretion in man.

CARCINOMA OF THE DUODENUM (page 222). Four interesting cases are reported with special reference to the radiological findings.

CANDIDA INFECTION OF THE OESOPHAGUS (page 227). J. M. Holt points out that this may be a cause of difficult and painful swallowing, often associated with persistent retrosternal pain, and the characteristic x-ray changes may be found. These patients tend to have a neutropenia.

COMPUTER ANALYSIS (page 232). This paper from the M.R.C. Gastroenterological Research Unit and the M.R.C. Clinical Research Centre describes a technique for analysing motility pressure tracings of the alimentary tract.

RATE OF GASTRIC EMPTYING (page 237). J. D. George describes a new, simple test which can be used clinically.

ANAL CANAL MOULDINGS (page 243). Raymond P. J. Kerremans describes a technique for making a mould of the anal canal which may allow structural abnormalities to be more clearly studied.

## REFERENCES

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## The February 1968 Issue

### THE FEBRUARY 1968 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

#### Signposts

Experimental cholelithiasis J. W. FRESTON and I. A. D. BOUCHIER

Carbenoxolone sodium M. J. S. LANGMAN

Crohn's disease of the colon and its distinction from diverticulitis G. T. SCHMIDT, J. E. LENNARD-JONES, B. C. MORSON, and A. C. YOUNG

Diseases associated with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease BARBARA HAMMER, PAMELA ASHURST, and J. NAISH

Degradation of bile salts by human intestinal bacteria M. J. HILL and B. S. DRASAR

Ready absorption of medium chain triglyceride in the steatorrhoea syndrome B. J. SMITS, P. WILDING, and W. T. COOKE

Histological and functional study of gastric mucosa in tropical sprue H. G. DESAI, A. V. BORKAR, and K. N. JEEJEBHOY

Effect of patterns of eating and antacids on faecal urobilinogen excretion S. L. MALHOTRA

Treatment of gastric ulcer with carbenoxolone: antagonistic effect of spironolactone RICHARD DOLL, M. J. S. LANGMAN, and H. H. SHAWDON

Treatment of gastric ulcer with oestrogens RICHARD DOLL, M. J. S. LANGMAN, and H. H. SHAWDON

Some experience with deglycyrrhizinated liquorice in the treatment of gastric and duodenal ulcers with special reference to its spasmolytic effect S. N. TEWARI and E. C. TREMBALOWICZ

Effect of oesophageal perfusion with acid on basal gastric secretion G. R. GILES, C. G. CLARK, and R. BUCHAN

Clinical data and characteristics differentiating types of peptic ulcer K. T. VESELÝ, Z. KUBÍČKOVÁ, and M. DVOŘÁKOVÁ with the statistical assistance of K. ZVOLÁNKOVÁ

Comparative study of operated cases of peptic ulcer in Madras in the 1940s and 1960s N. MADANAGOPALAN, R. SUBRAMANIAM, and M. N. KRISHNAN

Studies of the epidemiology of peptic ulcer in a rural community: prevalence and natural history of dyspepsia and peptic ulcer R. DEANS WEIR and E. MAURICE BACKETT

Treatment of chronic constipation with lactulose syrup: results of a double-blind study A. WESSELIUS-DE CASPARIS, S. BRAADBAART, G. E. V.D. BERGH-BOHLKEN, and M. MIMICA

Effect of vagotomy upon the small intestine J. BEJAR, S. A. BROITMAN, and N. ZAMCHECK

Effect of intravenous iron therapy on gastric acid secretion in iron-deficiency anaemia H. G. DESAI, B. C. MEHTA, A. V. BORKAR, and K. N. JEEJEBHOY

Alkaline phosphatase levels in normal and diseased small bowel ANNE FERGUSON, W. C. WATSON, J. D. MAXWELL, and G. S. FELL

Gastric secretory response to iron therapy W. D. STONE

Rectal and colonic mucosal biopsy findings and faeces, sigmoidoscopy, and histopathological correlation in amoebiasis and other colitis N. MADANAGOPALAN, S. P. VEDACHALAM, R. SUBRAMANIAM, and R. G. MURUGESAN

Effect of a synthetic gastrin-like pentapeptide upon the intestinal transport of sodium, potassium, and water J. C. GINGELL, M. W. DAVIES, and R. SHIELDS

Gastric cancer associated with gastroenterostomy and partial gastrectomy F. PYGOTT and V. L. SHAH

Use of 2 deoxy-D-glucose to test for the completeness of surgical vagotomy D. G. THOMAS and H. L. DUTHIE

A fistula for measurement of bile flow and composition in the dog D. M. FLETCHER and R. L. CORRY

Notes and activities

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,  
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1, price 18s. 6d.

## Notes and activities

**POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY** The seventh annual course in gastroenterology, organized by the Central Office of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, will be held from 7 October to 30 November 1968. The course, which is limited to 12 selected post-graduates and is intended as an introduction to the whole field of gastroenterology, will consist of lectures, demonstrations, ward rounds, clinico-pathological conferences, and practical instruction.

One day each week will be spent at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School in the Department of Medicine (Professor Sheila Sherlock), one at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School (Professor C. C. Booth), and another at the Central Middlesex Hospital (Dr. F. Avery Jones). Periods will also be spent at each of the following hospitals: West Middlesex Hospital (Dr. N. F. Coghill), St. Mark's Hospital (Dr. A. C. Young), Royal Northern Hospital (Dr. C. Foster Cooper), Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney (Dr. Winifred Young), St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College (Dr. A. M. Dawson), and St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School (Dr. B. Creamer). Lecturers from other centres will also take part.

The course will be directed towards the clinical diagnosis and management of patients suffering from all types of gastrointestinal disorders, including those of the liver and pancreas. Recently introduced biochemical, radiological, and isotopic techniques will be discussed and current research in these fields emphasized.

At the end of the course an optional two weeks' attachment at one of the hospitals can be arranged. This would provide the opportunity either for more intensive practical instruction in special techniques or for further study of one particular aspect of gastroenterology.

The fee for the eight-week course is £50, plus £10 for the optional fortnight, and applications, which close on 13 June 1968, should be addressed to the Secretary, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 18 Guilford Street, London, W.C.1.

**NEW GASTROINTESTINAL CENTRE** A new gastrointestinal centre will be opening in the next month or two at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, under the auspices of the Western Regional Hospital Board. This will be a joint venture between the medical staff of both the Southern General Hospital and the Western Infirmary of Glasgow, and it will be run by physicians, surgeons, radiologists, and pathologists from both hospitals. It is planned that the unit should provide a consultative service for clinical gastroenterological problems, and in addition it will have research laboratories.

**INTESTINAL ABSORPTION INFORMATION CENTRE** An experimental information centre on intestinal absorption has been set up in the University of Sheffield with a grant

from the Office for Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI). The project, initiated by Professor D. H. Smyth, F.R.S., is a joint venture of the Department of Physiology and the Postgraduate School of Librarianship and Information Science (Director: Mr. W. L. Saunders, M.A., F.L.A.).

At present the Centre has a staff of three. A monthly bulletin of references to the literature with brief abstracts is produced. The emphasis is on mechanisms of transport across the absorptive epithelium, a field in which Professor Smyth's Department is very active and has much experience. References are collected both by conventional methods and by the computer services ASCA, CBAC, Chemical Titles, and MEDLARS. Author and subject indexes are produced with a minimum of delay by using a computer in conjunction with offset lithography. Subject indexes for 1968 will be in conventional form (familiar to users of, e.g., Chemical Abstracts) but will be produced by computer, using the programme developed in Sheffield by Dr. M. F. Lynch and Miss J. E. Armitage. It is hoped that the Centre will also be able to deal with direct enquiries.

The aims of the project are: (1) to investigate information needs of workers in this field and services already available; (2) to indicate ways in which a Centre of this kind can provide improved information services; (3) to investigate the benefit, to users, of the association of the Centre with an active group of research workers; and (4) research and development in methods of information handling.

Students from the Postgraduate School of Librarianship and Information Science have, from the beginning, been closely associated with the Centre, and have produced a number of special studies relating to its activities.

The Centre is fortunate in having contact with the members of an international Reprint Exchange Club organized in this field by Dr. G. Semenza of Zurich. During the past year the bulletin and indexes have been distributed free of charge to about two hundred research workers. During 1968 the service will again be free; users will be asked to help to improve the service by providing details of their requirements. Further details may be obtained from Mr. J. K. Barkla, Biomedical Information Project, Department of Physiology, University of Sheffield.

**INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS** The following international meetings may be of interest to readers of *Gut*.

**Malabsorption symposium** The Fourth International Pfizer Symposium will be held in Edinburgh on 15, 16, and 17 May, and on this occasion the subject is malabsorption. These symposia are designed to deal with the growing points of knowledge in the subject and the following speakers from overseas will be participating: Professor Bengt Borgström, Lund; Dr. C. E. Butterworth, Birmingham, Alabama; Dr. Arne Dahlqvist, Lund; Dr. E. O. Riecken, Marburg. The total number of speakers and invited guests at these symposia is limited to 60.

The proceedings of the Symposium will be published in due course.

*European Pancreatic Club.* The third meeting will be held at Prague on 3 and 4 July 1968 before the International Congress of Gastroenterology under the patronage of Professor O. Stary, Rector of Charles University.

Professor Karel Herfort will preside at the meeting and the topics for this Symposium are: structure and function of the alimentary and Related polypeptide hormones; structure, biosynthesis and secretion of pancreatic hydrolyase in laboratory animals; indications for operation and results of surgical treatment of chronic pancreatitis. A session will be devoted to short papers.

*The Annual Meeting of the American Gastroenterological Association* All meetings of the 1968 annual meeting of the American Gastroenterological Association will be held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from Sunday 12 May to Wednesday 15 May. The subject of the postgraduate course is 'Frontiers in gastroenterology'. For further information write to: American College of Physicians, 4200 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19104.

On 15 May, the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy will be held and all information is available from the Secretary, Vernon Smith, 301 Saint Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

On 16 May, a research forum is being sponsored by the Gastroenterology Research Group and the American Gastroenterological Association. Further information from Robert Zeppa, Secretary of GRG, Box 875, Biscayne Annex, Miami, Florida 33152. In the afternoon there will be a symposium on 'Lymph'.

*First Bulgarian Congress of Gastroenterology and International Symposium on Hepatitis* The first international meeting to be held in Bulgaria will take place in Sofia from 1 to 5 October 1968, under the chairmanship of Professor T. A. Tashev (Sofia).

The main subjects to be discussed are: (1) problems of gastric and duodenal ulcers; sequelae of surgical treatment and their prevention; (2) viral and chronic hepatitis (immunological and enzymic problems) and posthepatitis conditions; (3) endoscopy and isotope diagnosis; (4) miscellaneous papers.

Simultaneous interpretations in Bulgarian, Russian, French, and English will be organized for foreign delegates.

Further information may be obtained from the Secretary General of the Congress, Professor H. Brailsky, at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, ISUL 8, Belo more str., Sofia, 27, Bulgaria.

*Third Asian-Pacific Congress of Gastroenterology* The meeting will be held in Melbourne from 9 to 11 (see *Gut* 9, p. 131) October. The programme will include symposia on 'Diseases of the small intestine', 'Diseases

of stomach', and 'Liver disease'; also panel discussions on 'Diseases of the oesophagus', 'Endoscopy', 'Mechanisms of intestinal digestion and absorption', 'Colitis', and 'Infections and infestations'.

Registration for the Congress and application for accommodation should be sent to the Secretaries not later than 1 May 1968 together with 40 Au. Dollars, and applications to present a paper not later than 1 July 1968. The Secretaries are Dr. J. Fone and Dr. E. S. R. Hughes, Box 2580W, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3001.

*WEST AFRICAN SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY* The first meeting of the West African Society of Gastroenterology, which was founded at Ibadan, W. Nigeria, in 1966, was held at Lagos from 21 to 23 March 1968. Professor A. O. Adesola was elected President. The Society now has 52 members and arranged an ambitious programme with a number of invited visitors. Professor M. Turner of Rochester, New York, delivered the guest lecture on 'Autoimmunity in gastrointestinal disease'. Amongst many contributions, it is interesting to note reports of the very high prevalence of duodenal ulcer, and rarity of cancer of the oesophagus in Nigeria, and the reporting of 25 cases of congenital hypertrophic stenosis of the pylorus in children, a condition previously thought to be rare in Africa. Other subjects included symposia on amoebiasis and on the gastric mucosa, and papers on ankylostomiasis and mycotic infections of the alimentary tract.

Dr. Thomas Hunt and Professor Harry Segal were elected honorary members of the Society.

*DYSENTERY* The practical problems concerned with the identification of *Shigella* are set out simply and authoritatively in a broadsheet published by the Association of Clinical Pathologists. Copies may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. The Broadsheet costs 5s.

BOOK of special interest to reader of *Gut*. This month we draw attention to the following.

*NEOPLASMS OF THE STOMACH* (Edited by G. McNeer and G. T. Pack. Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd., Price £13).

This book brings together much relating to the natural history, epidemiology, clinicopathology, diagnostic procedures, and surgery as medical palliation in 555 pages. Some sections, notably on epidemiology by W. Haenszel are excellent but many suffer from overstocking with old references. Of interest to the superspecialists, but too expensive for general readers.