Notes and activities

BSG Research Grants

The British Society of Gastroenterology invites applications from ordinary members of the Society for grants in support of research projects. Further details are set out in an explanatory leaflet which together with application forms is available from the BSG Secretariat, University College Hospital Medical School, Department of Surgery, The Rayne Institute, University Street, London WC1E 6JJ.

European Association for the Study of the Liver

The 13th Meeting will be held at Padua, Italy, on 31 August to 2 September 1978 with Professor L. Pagliaro as President and Professor R. Naccarato in charge of the Local Organizing Committee. If you wish to present a paper at this Meeting, you should send an abstract to the Secretary by 15 May 1978. Details from the Secretary: Wolfgang Arnold, Freis Universitat Berlin, Klinikum Charlottenburg, Department of Internal Medicine, Spandauer Damm 130, 1000 Berlin 19 (Fed. Rep. Germany).

IASL: Meeting 1978

The International Association for the Study of the Liver will meet at Fuengirola near Malaga, Spain, on 20 and 21 October 1978. Abstracts (one page, typewritten, ready for off-set printing) should be received by N. Tygstrup, Medical Department A, Rigshospitalet, 9, Blegdamsvej, 2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark, by 15 June 1978. Further information about the meeting can be obtained at the same address.

New 'Journal of Clinical Engineering'

A new quarterly publication, the *Journal of Clinical Engineering*, has been introduced for biomedical engineers, clinical engineers, hospital personnel, and all who work with clinical technology. The editor, Dr. M. D. Schwartz, is on the staff of the Biomedical Engineering Department, California State University,

Long Beach California. Details and a single complimentary copy of the new journal may be obtained, without charge, from Donna Pacela, Quest Publishing Co., Box 4141, Diamond Bar, California 91765, USA.

Books

Virus Hepatitis and its Control Yvonne E. Cossart. (Pp. 304. Illustrated. £7.50). Balliere Tindall: London. 1977.

This newly published monograph is by a distinguished Australian virologist, who has been a pioneer in the laboratory techniques for diagnosing viral hepatitis and a tower of strength to her clinical colleagues in the United Kingdom. The contents cover virology, the natural history and control of virus hepatitis, type A and type B.

One wishes there was a little more about 'e' antigen and particularly non-A, non-B hepatitis, but this will presumably be for the next edition. This is a relatively inexpensive book, which may account for the poor quality of the paper.

This book is a must for routine virology departments and an excellent reference for hospital libraries.

SHEILA SHERLOCK

Progress in Gastroenterology Vol. 3. Edited by George B. Jerzy Glass. (Pp. 1052; illustrated; £62.85.) Grune and Stratton: New York.

This is the third in the series, *Progress in Gastroenterology*, the last having been published seven years ago. Such is the rate of progress in this field that the editor had no problem in selecting 39 areas of gastroenterology which the authors have explored in depth, providing extensive bibliographies. Indeed, many of the chapters have between 100 and 200 references. It is a very good publication, with the chapters grouped into seven sections: the first one covers proliferation and growth of gastrointestinal mucosa; the second gastrointestinal hormones, and this includes a particularly good

chapter on the new peptide hormones by Stephen R. Bloom and Julia M. Polak; the third section covers gastrointestinal physiology and pathophysiology, and the chapter on intestinal secretion as a mechanism in diarrhoeal disease, by Sidney F. Phillips and Timothy S. Gaginella, is of special interest, and so is the chapter on derangements of oxalate metabolism by John W. Dobbins and Henry J. Binder; the fourth section, on nutrition and gastrointestinal tract, includes a chapter on dietary fibre and the colon by R. W. Reilly and J. B. Kirsner, and this is indeed the first chapter on this important field to appear in a gastroenterology progress report publication; the other two chapters, parenteral nutrition in the home and malnutrition and small intestinal disease, are also of special clinical interest; the fifth section relates to cancer of the gastrointestinal tract, giving information on carcino-embryonic antigen, on chemotherapy, and on the newer non-invasive techniques of diagnosis: the sixth section contains 11 chapters relating to clinical gastroenterology, including a commentary on the H_2 receptor antagonists in the treatment of peptic ulcer; the therapeutic as well as the diagnostic aspects of gastrointestinal endoscopy are covered in the final section, which includes a special study in relation to children, and another one on pancreatography by P. B. Cotton and M. Kizu. The publication is of a remarkably high order and constitutes an invaluable progress report and reference work and, expensive though it is, should certainly be found in all main gastroenterological centres.

F. AVERY JONES

Current Concepts in Parenteral Nutrition Edited by J. H. Greep, P. B. Soeters, R. I. C. Wesdorp, C. W. R. Phaf, and J. E. Fischer. (Pp. 378; illustrated; Dfl. 88.) Martinus Nijhoff: The Hague, 1977.

Many symposia on parenteral nutrition have been published during the last few years, each of which marks a step forward in the evolution of this treatment. This book contains papers presented at Maastricht and, like all good symposia, it answers some questions and poses others.

An outstanding review of his depart-