Notes and activities

Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock

We record with pleasure that Professor Sheila Sherlock professor of medicine, Royal Free School of Medicine, was appointed DBE in the Birthday Honours List.

British Society of Gastroenterology

Research Funds

Applications are invited for financial support for research, education and travel or equipment from the Society's research funds. For application forms and further information concerning specific guidelines, please contact the Honorary Secretary, University College Hospital, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London, WC1E 6JJ. Closing dates for applications: 1 February and 1 August.

Liver Meetings:

There are two forthcoming liver meetings—namely:

The 13th Meeting of the European Association for the study of the liver will meet in Padua, Italy, on 31 August–2 September 1978. The programme will include 36 communications, six working parties, and two symposia. The secretary of the Association is Wolfgang Arnold, Freie Universität Berlin, Klinikum Charlottenburg, Department of Internal Medicine, Spandauer Damm 130, 1000 Berlin 19 (Fed. Rep. Germany).

The International Association for the study of the liver will meet at Fuengirola, near Malaga, Spain, on 20–21 October 1978. There will be time for 36 communications. Abstracts by 15 June to Dr. N. Tygstrup, Medical Department A, Rigshospitalet; 9 Blegdamsvej, 2100, Copenhagen Ø, Denmark. There will also be a two days' postgraduate course on advances in the treatment of liver diseases. Write to Carroll M. Leevy, New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey, USA.

Books

Atlas of Gray Scale Ultrasonography Kenneth J. W. Taylor. (Pp. 411. Illustrated. £19.50.) Churchill Livingstone: London. 1978.

Ultrasound as a diagnostic tool became available in the late '60s and was taken up with enthusiasm by obstetricians but few others. It was not until the grey scale imaging techniques came into general use in 1974 that ultrasound had much to offer the gastroenterologist. Since then the use

of ultrasound diagnostic techniques in gastroenterology has increased steadily and its value as an early, non-invasive diagnostic process shown, but there are many clinicians who are unaware of its potential and confused by the images produced.

This book provides an introduction to diagnostic ultrasound and its techniques, making no assumption of previous knowledge. Indications for scanning are discussed and the list, though not exhaustive, indicates clinical problems in which ultrasound can give valuable information. The remainder of the book is a comprehensive collection of ultrasound images with histories and clear, labelled, explanatory diagrams illustrating normal and pathological appearances. The chapters on liver, biliary system, and pancreas are of particular interest to the gastroenterologist and make the images obtained much more comprehensible to the non-ultrasonologist. Spleen, kidney, and great vessels are well covered but 50 pages do not do justice to the enormous field of obstetric ultrasound. A number of rare lesions are illustrated, clearly imaged by ultrasound, but it is important to remember that tissue diagnosis may require supplementary techniques.

Though published from America, this book is based largely on Dr Taylor's work at the Royal Marsden Hospital. As a consequence, it uses British conventions of display and presentation of images. It will provide a valuable reference for ultrasonologists and a useful introduction to help the clinician to ask the right questions and make the best use of this relatively new technique.

RODNEY H. TAYLOR

Microbial Ecology of the Gut Edited by R. T. J. Clarke and T. Bauchop. (Pp. 410. Illustrated. £13.50.) Academic Press: London. 1978.

This book on the intestinal ecology of man and animals contains nine chapters, four contributed by the editors (both New Zealanders) and the remaining five by leading authorities from the United States (three), the United Kingdom (one), and Holland (one). It is, therefore, a truly international undertaking. The first two chapters contain background material on microbiological and ecological techniques and on the microbes to be found in the gut. The next three chapters consider background data on the biochemical activities of the gut flora *in vitro*, in the hind gut and

then in the foregut. Interactions are then considered between microbes (chapter 6) and between host and microbes (chapter 7). Much of the data on the latter interactions have been obtained from studies of gnotobiology and this is considered in chapter 8. The last chapter deals with the role of mathematical models. The references are grouped at the end of each chapter; there is also a comprehensive index to subjects and another to organisms at the end of the book.

Very much more information is available concerning the animal gut than that of the human and this is reflected in the contents of the book. Consideration of the whole animal kingdom allows a much fuller discussion of, for example, the factors controlling the gut flora and of the host-microbe interactions. The chapter on mathematical models is especially welcome as, hopefully, the shape of things to come.

The alimentary tract provides an ideal situation for the study of microbial ecology and there has been a need for a book covering the work in animals together with the human studies. This book fills that gap and is highly recommended to all interested in this field. To those of us who study the human gut one of the main contributions of this book will be to keep us aware of how far our studies lag behind those of the veterinarians!

M. J. HILL

Infections and Parasitic Diseases of the Intestine. Discussions in Patient Management By H. A. Reimann and K. Juniper. (Pp. 115. £6.) Kimpton: London. 1977.

This is a concise book of many short chapters, the first half on viral, bacterial, and mycotic enteritis, and the second on parasitic diseases of the intestine, including a reference section on antiparasitic drugs. The authors start by using the word 'dysentery' to mean bowel trouble, leading to chapter headings like 'viral dysentery' and 'clostridial alimentary dysentery'. As this contradicts both centuries of medical usage and the standard English dictionaries, in all of which 'dysentery' connotes inflammation of the large bowel, misunderstanding is bound to follow such blatant disregard of common usage. More seriously, although many useful facts are presented, the treatment is in general superficial, and, for many subjects, so brief as to be valueless—for example, a single short paragraph on gluten-sensitive

enteropathy and another almost as short on malabsorption syndromes. The choice of references, especially in the first part, is strangely arbitrary. The section on parasitic diseases is better organised and provides much useful data in compact form, and the last pages give a useful summary of the main antiparasitic drugs, with data on dosage and toxicity.

H. P. LAMBERT

Operative Surgery General Principles, Breast and Hernia General editors: Charles Rob and Rodney Smith. Consultant editors: Hugh Dudley, Charles Rob, and Rodney Smith. (Pp. 156 Illustrated. £19.) Butterworths: London 1977. Charles Rob's and Rodney Smith's *Operative Surgery* has been the standard comprehensive work on the subject for the past 20 years. It has always relied on a maximum of good illustrations and a minimum of text. All the sections are prepared by recognised authorities.

Most surgical trainees lean heavily on this work and there can be few surgeons who do not study it carefully before undertaking operations with which they are not thoroughly familiar.

The work has now entered its third edition, the original editors have been joined by Hugh Dudley, and there are 18 volumes, covering the whole field of surgery.

This is the rather slim introductory volume on *General Principles, Breast and Hernia*. The general principles include accounts of ligature and suture materials, design and safety in the operating theatre, operative dispositions and ergonomics, and advanced techniques of intravenous therapy. All this is basic to surgery as a whole and repays careful study. Gastrointestinal surgeons will find the sections on intravenous therapy and on hernia particularly valuable. The volume on the abdomen, however, is that which they will use most often.

The whole series should be available for ready reference in every medical library and in every operating theatre suite.

R. B. WELBOURN

Operative Surgery 3rd edition: *Abdomen* Edited by Charles Rob and Rodney Smith. Associate editor Hugh Dudley. (Pp. 509. Illustrated. £42.50.) Butterworths: London. 1977.

The latest edition of this well-known *tour*

de force lives up to the reputation of its predecessors. The text is succinct and the illustrations clear. Although there are many authors there is a continuous theme throughout emphasising safe, meticulous techniques.

There are, however, some small details which might usefully be remedied in future editions. In the chapter on exploratory laparotomy, mention should be made that the lesser sack must be opened to avoid missing pancreatic lesions and posterior gastric ulcers and small carcinomas. The chapter on techniques of anastomosis in gastrointestinal surgery is particularly valuable and deals with the latest views on one layer anastomosis in the lower rectum and the dangers of oesophageal surgery. It is a pity however that the wise advice to avoid non-crushing occlusive clamps in oesophageal anastomoses is ignored in another chapter on total gastrectomy, which also omits to state the minimum length of 45 cm for the Roux loop to prevent bile leaking from the oesophagojejunal anastomosis should dehiscence occur and to prevent biliary reflux oesophagitis.

In dealing with palliative intubation of carcinoma of the hepatic duct the well-tried Terblanche tube could have been mentioned. Endoscopic retrograde sphincterotomy with electrocautery could also be included as one answer to the problem of the retained stone in the common bile duct.

These minor criticisms in no way detract from the excellence of this volume which all surgeons will find a useful addition to their library.

IAN MCCOLL

Developments in Digestive Diseases—Clinical Relevance Edited by J. Edward Berk. (Pp. 199. Illustrated. £15.75.) Lea & Febiger: Philadelphia; Henry Kimpton: London. 1977.

This slim but expensive volume is the first of an intended annual series reviewing advances in gastroenterology. The opening number is subtitled 'clinical relevance' and covers gastrointestinal endoscopy, the lower oesophageal sphincter, medical management of duodenal ulcer, angiography in gastrointestinal haemorrhage, hepatitis viruses, contraceptive pill-induced liver tumours, medical dissolution of gallstones, isoamylase analysis, gastrointestinal gas, and chapters on computed tomography and ultrasound in digestive disorders.

Apart from Zuckerman (hepatitis viruses) the authors are all American and about 80% of the quoted references are from the North American literature. The chapters by Bond and Levitt (gas in the gut) and Castell and Johnson (lower oesophageal sphincter) are authoritative and well written, but those on gastrointestinal endoscopy and medical treatment of duodenal ulcer are pedestrian and detail little personal experience; the chapter on ulcer treatment is more suited to an undergraduate textbook, and deals with cimetidine in four brief paragraphs, allowing H₂ receptor antagonists as much attention as sedatives. The contribution on interventional radiology in gastrointestinal haemorrhage fully documents the techniques but does not really define their place in management—a few case reports with illustrative radiographs are given but neither a series nor a comparative trial is reported. Similarly, in the chapter on dissolution therapy for gallstones, the place of this treatment in the management of a disease at present usually treated by surgery is not spelled out; however, this chapter does contain an excellent review of bile dynamics and the theoretical basis for dissolution therapy. The editor contributes a chapter full of biochemical detail on the separation of isoamylases, confirming the difficulties in clinical application of these techniques at present. The liver fares much better with a lucid and scholarly review from Zuckerman on hepatitis viruses, and a brisk but full account from Nissen on pill-induced liver tumours. The chapter on ultrasound stresses the importance of the operator, but reports relatively little experience; the pictures are clear and well labelled. Unfortunately, CT scanning is done scant justice, with a brief chapter and foggy, poorly labelled illustrations.

This 'recent advances' book is presumably aimed at gastroenterologists, but its chapters are very uneven in quality and a firm editorial hand will be needed if the 'clinical relevance' of its subtitle is to be kept to the fore in the future.

MARTIN SARNER

Hepatotropic Factors Ciba Foundation Symposium No. 55 (new series). (Pp. 405. Illustrated. US \$36.00.) Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1978.

This beautifully produced book gives us the presentations and discussions at a seemingly lively international meeting.