Correspondence

Immunological studies in inflammatory bowel disease
SIR,—The leading article by Ferguson (*Gut* 1983; **24**: 687–91) on immunological studies in inflammatory bowel disease, and the paper by Fiocchi *et al* (pp. 692–701) prompted us to refer our data on T function in Crohn's disease.

While studying T rosette serum inhibitory factors in chronic active liver disease,¹ we also tested, as a disease control group, 14 sera from coeliac disease untreated patients. Rosette inhibitory factors were detected in 36% coeliac disease sera and they were associated with immunoglobulin factors reacting in immunofluorescence with purified T lymphocyte. Furthermore, inhibitory activity was abolished by treatment of sera with (NH₄)₂SO₄, which precipitates gammaglobulin fraction. We conclude that in some coeliac disease cases serum immunoglobulin factors, which can interfere with T lymphocyte functions, are present.

We agree that direct studies on intestinal lymphoid system are likely to be the best way to detect immunological abnormalities underlying these diseases, but we would like to point out that also at this level results are rather conflicting. In fact, other authors² have reported reduced suppressor cell activity in intestinal lymphocytes from patients with coeliac disease. Furthermore, our data would suggest that systemic factors also may be relevant in modulating immune reactions in these conditions.

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References

- 1 Zauli, D, Bianchi FB, Fusconi M, Crespi C, Pisi E. Evaluation of serum rosette inhibitory factors in chronic liver disease. *Clin Exp Immunol* 1983; **53**: 145–50.
- 2 Goodacre RL, Bienenstock J. Reduced suppressor cell activity in intestinal lymphocytes from patients with Crohn's disease. *Gastroenterology* 1982; **82**: 653–8.

Books

Manual of paediatric parenteral nutrition Edited by John A Kerner Jr. (Pp. 365; illustrated; £33.25.) New York: John Wiley, 1983.

In the late 1960s, Dudrick and Wilmore successfully showed that an adequate calorie intake could be provided solely by the intravenous route, and allow an infant to grow and develop normally. Parenteral nutrition has become a standard technique in both paediatric and adult gastroenterology, and this volume is a distillate of the experience and practice of the nutritional support team of Stanford University Medical Centre. The subject is covered comprehensively, and the chapters range from indications and specific requirements to practical aspects such as biochemical monitoring, nursing care and an extremely valuable contribution on ethics and psychosocial problems. The information given on specific requirements is very variable in quality – if only all these chapters were as good as that devoted to fat requirements! The potentially difficult period, when prolonged catabolism is reversed to anabolism and vast swings in the requirements of specific substances, is hardly discussed. Two other chapters on solution preparation problems and the transition to enteral feeding also deal with the key issues poorly, though the data on precipitation are valuable. Many of the commercial solutions discussed are different from those available on this side of the Atlantic, but this is only of minor inconvenience. With the ever increasing proliferation of microcomputers, there is not only a chapter on the use of computers, but also a program that generates solution mixing instructions, bottle labels and a record for the patient's notes. The program will run on any CP/M compatible computer.

In a rapidly changing field in which new information is constantly being generated, the authors have produced a book which is up to date, contains adequate references, and will be invaluable to house staff and registrars involved in feeding patients intravenously.

P J MILLA

Total parenteral nutrition in the hospital and at home Edited by K N Jeejeebhoy. (Pp. 255; illustrated; \$85.00.) Florida: CRC Press, Inc, 1983. Professor Jeejeebhoy's unit in Toronto is well-known for its work in the field of nutrition both for its experimental work and for the practical management of patients in hospital and at home. His new book concentrates on the latter aspect of his work and has additional chapters by members of the departments of surgery, pharmacy, and nursing. Unlike the majority of recent books on the subject, which often concentrate on theoretical aspects, this book is a highly specific down-to-earth practical manual. It contains chapters describing the

organisation of a support team, the practical aspects of the use of catheters including nursing techniques, and the prevention and treatment of complications. Other chapters supply details of the requirements for a comprehensive feeding programme. These include the ordering and preparation of parenteral solutions, the suitability and compatibility of TPN mixtures and a cost analysis of home feeding. Considerable attention is directed at the pharmaceutical components of a feeding programme in the chapters by G Tsallas. These give a much more balanced view of the subject than is usually found. He ends with an excellent short chapter which defines most of the terms in common use with great precision. The few black and white illustrations (such as those showing the operative manoeuvres for inserting a tunnel catheter in the deltopectoral region), are poorly printed, but they illustrate the technique clearly.

The book is carefully written with quite extensive reading lists at the end of the important chapters. It is recommended reading for all clinicians interested in the subject and especially for those in training who are part of a feeding team; it is a particularly useful guide for a hospital trying to set up a feeding programme.

EMANOEL C G LEE

Books received

Recent results in cancer research. Colorectal cancer
Edited by W Duncan. (Pp. 156; illustrated; \$40.90.)
Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1982.

Progress in allergy. Host parasite relationships in gram-negative infections Edited by L A Hanson, P Kallos, O Westphal. (Pp. 344; illustrated; \$118.75.)
Basel, Switzerland: S Karger, 1982.

Dietary fiber in health and disease Edited by G V Vahouny, D Kritchevsky. (Pp. 330; illustrated; £37.50.) New York: Plenum Publishing Corp, 1982.

News

2nd European Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility

This symposium will be held in Oxford from 5-7 September 1984. Abstracts must be received by 1 April 1984. Further information may be obtained from Dr D L Wingate, London Hospital, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BB.

9th International Hepatic Update 1984

To be held at The Royal Free Hospital, London, from 12-14 July 1984. Speakers include: Dame Sheila Sherlock (London), W Arnold (Bremen), L Blumgart (London), J Dienstag (Boston), G Johnston (Belfast), A Jones (Bethesda), R MacSween (Glasgow), K Okuda (Tokyo), J Rodes (Barcelona), N Tygstrup (Copenhagen), A Zuckerman (London), and staff of The Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine. Further details are available from: Professor Neil McIntyre, The Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.

Société Nationale Français de Gastroenterologie

The 19th research forum and the 8th French meeting of hepatogastroenterology organised by this society will be held from 13-16 March 1984 at the Sofitel-Sèvres Hotel in Paris. Further information from Professor Y Le Quintrec, Hopital Rothschild, 33 Boulevard de Picpus, 75571, Paris, Cedex 12, France.

5th International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Hormones

This meeting, which is to provide a forum for the communication of recent research in gastrointestinal hormones, is to be held from 30 September to 3 October, 1984 in Rochester, Minnesota, USA. Abstracts must be received by 27 April 1984. Further details from Dr Vay Liang W Go, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota 55905, USA.

19th Czechoslovak Congress of Gastroenterology

This congress will be held from 12-16 November 1984 at Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia. Further details from Czechoslovak Medical Society, J E Purkyně, Czechoslovak Congress of Gastroenterology, Vítězného února 31, 120 26 Praha 2, Czechoslovakia.

6th International Conference on Alcohol Related Problems

This conference is to be held from 8-13 April 1984 in Liverpool. Further information from Dr A I Morris, Chairman, Conference Organising Committee, 1st Floor, Fruit Exchange, Victoria Street, Liverpool L2 6QU.

International Symposium on Alimentation and Diseases of the Upper Digestive Tract

This meeting will be held on 31 March 1984 in Genoa, Italy. Further details from Dr E Bovero, Divisione di Gastroenterologia, Ospedale S Martino, 16132 Genoa, Italy.