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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 m-equiv/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 authors' names. 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 the numbers of first and last pages of the 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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GUT

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Signposts

THE ACT OF VOMITING IN MAN (page 173) Occasionally a patient during the course of a barium meal may become nauseated, start retching and may sometimes vomit. The opportunity has been taken to record the sequence of changes which occur.

EFFECT OF DRIED BEANS AND SILICONE ON INTESTINAL HYDROGEN AND METHANE PRODUCTION IN MAN (page 180) It seems likely that the patterns of hydrogen and methane in the breath and flatus may reflect the abundance and site of certain gas-forming organisms in the gut.

SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS AND SMALL BOWEL INVOLVEMENT (page 185) The small intestine is frequently affected and at an early stage, although there is usually little clinical evidence, but episodes of ileus can occur when there is severe involvement.

ADRENAL AND CLINICAL RESPONSES TO CORTICOTROPHIN AND PREDNISONE IN INFLAMMATORY DISEASE OF THE COLON (page 194) Clinical observations of particular value in relation to colitis. (a) Increasing the dose of corticotrophin not only increased the peak levels but also increased the duration of action. (b) Poor absorption of prednisone may be an important consideration in the relatively greater benefit of corticotrophin. (c) No difference in adrenal response to corticotrophin was noted between patients who went into remission and those who needed surgical treatment.

FATE OF THE RECTUM AND DISTAL COLON AFTER SUBTOTAL COLECTOMY FOR ULCERATIVE COLITIS (page 198) The experience of a large series showed that the rectal segment involved in ulcerative colitis can rarely if ever be utilized for a successful reanastomosis and therefore in most cases a primary total proctocolectomy is indicated.

SODIUM CONSERVATION BY THE SMALL INTESTINE IN A PATIENT WITH CHRONIC ILEOSTOMY DIARRHOEA (page 202) With a sodium depletion state there is less sodium lost from the small intestine but this conservation is at the cost of extra loss of potassium.

FREE PERFORATION IN REGIONAL ENTERITIS (page 206) Five cases of free perforation with regional enteritis have been added to 36 already noted in the literature. Factors predisposing to free perforation include acute or fulminant disease as well as partial small intestinal obstruction.

PANCREATIC RESPONSE TO FOOD (page 209) In four dogs the pancreatic secretion of fluid, bicarbonate, and protein after ingestion of a meat meal has been studied under conditions closely similar to those occurring in the normal postprandial period. The mean secretion rates for fluid and bicarbonate were about one third of the maximal secretion rates obtainable with combined stimulation with secretin and pancreozymin. The mean secretion rate for protein attained one fifth of the maximal rate.

pH IN THE DUODENAL BULB AFTER FOOD AND ALKALI (page 215) Using continuous recording no consistent response was found. Alkalinization after antacid was negligible.

EFFECT OF LOW DOSAGE OF CARBENOXOLONE SODIUM ON GASTRIC ULCER HEALING AND ACID SECRETION (page 219) Giving 100 mg tds for one week and then 50 mg tds for four weeks gave comparable beneficial effects in healing and with a low incidence of side effects.

ROLE OF GASTRIC SECRETION IN IRON ABSORPTION (page 226) The presence of normal gastric juice is an important factor in facilitating iron absorption. Inorganic iron is able to form complexes with normal gastric juices at a low pH. These complexes remain soluble when the pH is raised to neutrality and enable the iron to be absorbed in the small intestine.

GASTRIC PLASMACYTOMA (page 230) A case report of an extramedullary plasmacytoma involving the stomach.

UNCLASSIFIED OESOPHAGEAL MOTOR DISORDERS SIMULATING ACHALASIA (page 234) A study of six patients who, with severe motor disturbances of the oesophagus, may represent an incomplete form of achalasia.

ALCOHOL DEGRADATION AND BROMSULPHTHALEIN METABOLISM IN ACUTE ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE (page 241). It has been shown that prolonged and excessive consumption of ethanol is associated with a reversible depression of bromsulphthalein storage, and the mechanisms of this are studied.

USE OF THE HEIDELBERG pH CAPSULE IN THE ROUTINE ASSESSMENT OF GASTRIC ACID SECRETION (page 245) It is of value in detecting achlorhydria and extremes of maximal acid secretion. Patients prefer it to intubation.

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The February 1969 Issue

THE FEBRUARY 1969 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

Signposts

Cholera—a clue to 'functional diarrhoea'? G. E. SLADEN and A. M. DAWSON

The coeliac axis and its branches in splenomegaly and liver disease LAURENCE BLENDIS, LOUIS KREEL, and ROGER WILLIAMS

Effect of gastrectomy on biliary dynamics A. P. WYATT

Carcinoma of bile ducts in husband and wife C. F. MCCARTHY and H. J. ESPINER

Deposition of amyloid in the gastrointestinal tract T. GILAT, M. REVACH, and E. SOHAR

Permeability characteristics of the cholera-infected small intestine A. H. G. LOVE

Malignancy and adult coeliac disease W. T. COOKE, H. THOMPSON, and J. ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

Three-dimensional structure of the rat small intestinal mucosa related to mucosal dynamics.

Part I: *Mucosal structure and dynamics in the rat after the administration of methotrexate.*

Part II: *Mucosal structure and dynamics in the lactating rat.*

Part III: *Mucosal structure and dynamics in the rat infested with the nematode Nippostrongylus brasiliensis* C. A. LOEHRY and B. CREAMER

Experimental study of devascularization of the colon ADRIAN MARSTON, R. W. MARCUSON, M. CHAPMAN, and J. F. ARTHUR

Early diagnosis of ischaemic colitis F. T. DE DOMBAL, D. M. FLETCHER, and R. S. HARRIS

Inhibition of gastric secretion in man by intestinal fat infusion COLIN W. O. WINDSOR, ROY COCKEL, and MARTIN J. R. LEE

Influence of hyperaldosteronism upon gastric secretion R. M. BADDELEY, JANICE EVANS, and J. A. GRIFFIN

Choledochoduodenal fistula complicating chronic duodenal ulcer in Nigerians E. A. LEWIS and S. P. BOHRER

Geographical distribution of stomach cancer in Czechoslovakia O. GREGOR, R. TOMAN, F. PRUŠOVÁ, V. DRNKOVÁ, and J. PASTOROVÁ

Present position of the electrical stimulation test H. BURGE, T. B. L. ROBERTS, R. D. STEDEFORD, and M. J. LANCASTER.

New method of measuring forces in the anal canal C. D. COLLINS, B. H. BROWN, G. E. WHITTAKER, and H. L. DUTHIE

Techniques

Mounting and storage of gastrocamera films J. R. KIRKPATRICK and R. J. MARSHALL

Comment

Notes and activities

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1, price 17s. 6d.

Notes and activities

CORRECTION We much regret that in the note commenting upon the book '*Exfoliative cytology of the stomach*', on page 76 in the January issue of *Gut*, the name of the author was omitted. It is D. D. Gibbs.

BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY A one-day Scientific Meeting of the Society will be held on Friday 25 April 1969 at the Royal College of Physicians, in London. A symposium, arranged by the Scientific Sub-Committee, entitled 'Immunological mechanisms in gastrointestinal disease', will be held during the morning. The tentative programme is:

- 1 Introductory concepts
Cell-mediated immunity: Professor Brent
Humoral aspects: Professor Cohen
- 2 The stomach: Dr Graham Jeffries
- 3 IgA and the gut: Dr Tomasi
- 4 The liver: Dr Deborah Doniach

The afternoon will be devoted to short scientific papers. An informal dinner will be held in the evening. A registration fee of £2 (which will not include the cost of the dinner) will be charged to all members and guests.

NOTES ON NEW BOOKS There has been an increasing interest recently in gastrointestinal gas. The whole number of the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, volume 150, February 1968, is devoted to the physiology, clinical, and radiological aspects in a special symposium on '*Gastrointestinal gas*' with many contributions. This conference was intended to present for consideration an analysis of all the factual data at present available on the subject. It is the first of its kind in the hitherto neglected field of gastroenterology and should succeed in stimulating much interest and encouragement for further work. It is published by The New York Academy of Sciences, New York. The price is not given.

'*Portal hypertension*' by C. E. Sedgwick and J. K. Poulantzas. This book is written by two surgeons for general surgeons. It gives an account of the haemodynamics and abnormal endocrine function and disturbed biochemistry with special reference to their practical application in diagnosis and medical treatment. The physiological background is covered in great detail; it is well documented, and not without considerable interest to the general physician. There is good discussion of operative procedures. Published by J. & A. Churchill, price 112s. 6d.

'*Pancreatic diabetes*' by P. J. Geevarghese is a study of diabetes associated with pancreatic calcification covering 400 patients, together with a full survey of the literature. This is a condition which has important geographical variations in incidence, and the authors have been assisted by those who have studied this condition, particularly in India. It is published by Bombay Popular Prakashan, price Rs. 60.00.

'*Recent advances in clinical pathology*', series 5, covers a wide field of pathology but only a few sections are of special interest to those concerned with gastroenterological medicine. This volume includes an admirable study of mucosal biopsies from the gastrointestinal tract by R. Whitehead (Oxford), a section on auto-immune and hypersensitivity phenomena in alimentary diseases by W. J. Irvine (Edinburgh), and I. Chanarin discusses the diagnosis of folate deficiency. This book is published by J. & A. Churchill, price 100s.

EUROPEAN PANCREATIC CLUB The fourth symposium of the European Pancreatic Club will be held in Goettingen, West Germany, on 26 and 27 September 1969 in the Max-Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine under the chairmanship of Professor W. Creutzfeldt. The leading topics of the Symposium will be (1) 'Energy metabolism and regulation of enzyme synthesis in the pancreas'; (2) 'early diagnosis of pancreatic carcinoma' (pancreatic function, radiology, scintigraphy, cytology); (3) panel discussion on 'Standardization of pancreatic function tests'; (4) free papers.

The number of participants will be limited to those active in the field of pancreatic research.

Applications for participation and for submission of papers should be sent before 30 April 1969 to the secretary of the Symposium, Dr H. Schmidt, Medizinische Universitaetsklinik, 34 Goettingen, Humboldtallee 1 (W. Germany).

FOURTH WORLD CONGRESS OF GASTROENTEROLOGY The fourth World Congress of Gastroenterology will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 12 to 18 July 1970 under the Presidency of Professor Mogens Andreassen. All information can be obtained from the Secretariat, 4th World Congress of Gastroenterology, c/o DIS CONGRESS SERVICE, 36, Skindergade, 1159 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

The scientific programme will be concerned with gastric ulcer; early diagnosis of gastric ulcer; cancer of the oesophagus; relationship between gastric function and histological structure; oesophagitis; mono- and disaccharide malabsorption; pathogenic significance of intestinal bacteria in malabsorption syndromes; ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease; polyps of the gastrointestinal tract; motility of the gastrointestinal tract; angiographic examination of the gastrointestinal tract; hepatic coma; tumours of the liver; cirrhosis of the liver; the liver in malnutrition; the physio-chemical properties of bile; regulation of synthesis and secretion of pancreatic enzymes; interaction between gastric and pancreatic secretions; immunological estimation of pancreatic enzymes; the early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer; post-vagotomy syndromes; gastrin; and gastroenterological manifestations of endemic infections.

Symposia on the following items will be organized: 'Chemotherapy of gastrointestinal cancer' (E. Watkins, Jr, Boston, USA); 'Early diagnosis of gastric cancer' (M. Oi, Tokyo, Japan); 'Electron-microscopic examination of the liver' (Ch. Rouiller, Geneva, Switzerland); 'Gastritis and stomach ulcer' (M. Siurala, Helsinki, Finland); 'Hepatic coma' (G. A. Martini, Marburg

Lahn, Germany); 'Intestinal mucosal enzymes' (A. Dahlquist, Lund, Sweden); 'Local immunoglobulins in the intestine' (P. Crabbé, Louvain, Belgium); 'Pathophysiology of the oesophagus'; 'Polyps and polyposis of the colon' (C. E. Welch, Boston, USA); 'post-vagotomy syndromes' (J. A. Williams, Birmingham, England); 'Regulation of the external pancreatic secretion' (M. I. Grossman, Los Angeles, USA); 'Transplantation of the liver', and 'Ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease' (S. C. Truelove, Oxford, England).

Free communications will be accepted within the

limitations of space and time. Facilities for showing *scientific films* will be available and a *scientific exhibition* will be arranged.

Commercial Exhibition Instruments, drugs, scientific literature *etc.* will be shown at this exhibition.

Social Programme A banquet and receptions are planned, and a special programme will be arranged for associate members, including excursions, visits to social and cultural institutions.

Languages The official languages of the congress are English, French, German, and Spanish.