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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

The Journal of The British Society of Gastroenterology

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Yearly Subscription (12 numbers): Inland £8 8s, abroad £9 5s, single number 17s. 6d.

Signposts

HYPOTONIC DUODENOGRAPHY (page 428) A modified technique, relatively simple to perform, provides useful information, particularly with tumours of the pancreas or duodenum.

RADIOLOGICAL DETERMINATION OF SPLEEN SIZE (page 433) The area of the spleen was calculated from radiological measurements. A highly significant linear correlation can be derived by relating area in \log_{10} spleen weight and may prove useful in the quantitation of splenic function.

DOUBLE-CONTRAST METHOD FOR THE EVALUATION OF GASTRIC LESIONS (page 436) Air-contrast barium meals provide valuable additional diagnostic evidence.

ASPIRIN AND UNCOMPLICATED PEPTIC ULCER (page 443) This study provides further evidence incriminating the aspirin in APC powder as an important factor in increase in gastric ulcer in young women.

INTESTINAL DISSACCHARIDASE ACTIVITY AFTER BILLROTH II RESECTION FOR PEPTIC ULCER (page 451) The practical importance of this study is that a low concentration of enzymes in the first 20 cm of the efferent loop is of no significance in the diagnosis of disaccharide malabsorption.

PERFORATED DUODENAL ULCER IN READING, 1950 TO 1959 (page 454) The trend towards immediate definitive surgery, mainly Polya gastrectomy, without increased mortality is noted, and the increased mortality of a second perforation.

NINE CASES OF GASTRIC ULCER AFTER VAGOTOMY AND DRAINAGE FOR DUODENAL ULCER (page 460) This complication must be kept in mind in patients presenting with dyspepsia, abdominal pain, or bleeding after vagotomy and drainage.

TRANSMURAL POTENTIAL DIFFERENCE IN PATIENTS WITH HIATUS HERNIA AND OESOPHAGEAL ULCER (page 469) The potential difference transition zone from negative to positive values was shown to represent the mucosal transition from acid-bearing to columnar and from columnar to oesophageal mucosa. The transition zone is increased in length and is proximally dislocated in patients

with hiatus hernia. A fall in potential difference was observed over mucosal ulcerations of the body of the oesophagus. It is postulated that the lengthening and upward dislocation of the potential difference transition zone is the result of inflammation and ulceration or possibly of invasion by gastric mucosa of the lower oesophagus.

FATE OF TRYPSIN AND CHYMOTRYPSIN IN THE HUMAN SMALL INTESTINE (page 477) It seems that human small intestine mucosa binds trypsin and chymotrypsin without inactivation. The output of trypsin from subjects on ileal drainage was significantly reduced by neomycin sulphate but chymotrypsin output was unaffected; neomycin may alter pancreatic secretion.

POLYMERIC COLLAGEN ISOLATED FROM THE HUMAN INTESTINAL SUBMUCOSA (page 484) The intestinal submucosal layer has a special interest in view of its commercial use in sausage casings and its importance in any study of normal and pathological changes in the human intestine. This paper reports the amino acid composition and electron microscopic appearance of the intestinal submucosal polymeric collagen fibrils.

THE EFFECT OF GASTRIC JUICE ON IRON ABSORPTION IN PATIENTS WITH GASTRIC ATROPHY (page 488) When inorganic iron is given to patients with complete achlorhydria, absorption is increased by the simultaneous administration of neutralized normal gastric juice. Gastric juice potentiates iron absorption even when the effect of acid is eliminated.

PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF ESTIMATING SERUM PROTEINS IN CASES OF ULCERATIVE COLITIS IN REMISSION (page 491) Attacks of ulcerative colitis are often preceded by a rise in the alpha 2 globulin level before the onset of clinical symptoms.

MEASUREMENT OF DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA) IN CANINE JEJUNAL FISTULAR FLUID (page 497) The assay of DNA in intestinal fluid has been studied for its possible use in the evaluation of the desquamation rate of intestinal epithelium. The results suggest that DNA in intestinal fluid can be evaluated specifically and quantitatively.

samples of intestinal fluid to which pure DNA had been added before TCA precipitation showed 80 to 99% recovery of the added DNA. The absorption spectrum obtained after reaction of intestinal DNA with diphenylamine reagent was essentially the same as with pure DNA, as was the spectrum of the intestinal DNA itself in the ultraviolet region. The results suggest that DNA in intestinal fluid can be evaluated specifically and quantitatively.

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The May 1969 Issue

THE MAY 1969 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

Signposts

Tropical sprue JOHN G. BANWELL and SHERWOOD L. GORBACH

Bacteria and the aetiology of cancer of the large bowel VIVIENNE ARIES, J. S. CROWTHER, B. S. DRASAR, M. J. HILL, and R. E. O. WILLIAMS

Postmortem survey of diverticular disease of the colon L. E. HUGHES

Part I Diverticulosis and diverticulitis

Part II The muscular abnormality in the sigmoid colon

Organization of the muscular wall of the human colon J. L. PACE and IFOR WILLIAMS

Relationship of anaemia and hypoproteinaemia to the functional and structural changes in the small bowel in hookworm disease B. N. TANDON, A. K. SARAYA, K. RAMACHANDRAN, and S. K. SAMA

Gastroenterostomy and vagotomy for chronic duodenal ulcer A. W. DELLIPIANI, I. B. MACLEOD, J. W. W. THOMSON, and A. A. SHIVAS

Evaluation and simple modification of the gastrin test M. C. MASON and G. R. GILES

Studies on the G cells of the pyloric mucosa, the probable site of gastrin secretion E. SOLCIA, G. VASSALLO, and C. CAPELLA

Pyogenic liver abscess T. J. BUTLER and C. F. MCCARTHY

The origin of faecal fat H. S. WIGGINS, KATHRYN E. HOWELL, T. D. KELLOCK, and J. STALDER

Evidence for the release of gastric fibrinolytic activity into peripheral blood H. T. COX, L. POLLER, and JEAN M. THOMSON

Use of cuprous thiocyanate as a short-term continuous marker for faeces MATTHEW DICK

Proceedings of the British Society of Gastroenterology

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

A. E. E. READ, a member of the British Society of Gastroenterology, and also of the Editorial Committee of *Gut*, has recently been appointed Professor of Medicine at Bristol University. Professor Read has been Secretary of the Society.

BOOKS OF INTEREST TO READERS OF *GUT*

Encyclopedia of Medical Radiology, Volume XI, Part 2, Roentgen diagnosis of the digestive tract and abdomen. Edited by F. Strnad. The previous volume (Volume XI, Part I) of this vast radiological encyclopaedia dealt with the oesophagus, stomach, and duodenum. This volume of 765 pages by German and Swedish contributors covers the small intestine, the colon, the acute abdomen, and the radiology of the intestinal tract in the newborn and infants. Many of the chapters by Swedish authors are written in English. The medical literature is very widely covered, immense attention is given to detail, and the reproductions of radiographs are exceptionally good. Published by Springer-Verlag, Berlin. Price \$80.

The Vagi in Medicine and Surgery by George W. Holt. Although the vagus nerve is of great concern in surgical gastroenterology, nevertheless it is of great interest and importance also in relation to the heart, respiratory tract, and pancreas. This monograph brings together present-day knowledge of the anatomy and functions of the vagus. Published by Charles C. Thomas, Illinois. Price \$75.

The Surgical Management of Ulcerative Colitis by Frank Couper Walker. This book is based on the personal experience of 400 patients and is rather more comprehensive than its title suggests, nearly half being concerned with diagnosis and complications. Within its 139 pages it provides a very useful perspective of this condition and deals with many practical points in surgical management. His experience of ileorectal anastomosis has been disappointing and he is a strong supporter of ileostomy and colectomy. Published by Butterworth and Co. Ltd. Price £2 10s.

Today there is much more interchange of staff with overseas hospitals, and *Pathology in the Tropics* by G. M. Edington and H. M. Gilles will meet the current need for a book which brings together all the special problems of pathology in the tropics. It is exceedingly well done, and is indeed the only book available at the present time which paints both the broad canvas and the detail of geographical pathology. Epidemiology has been described at some length and this is a prerequisite to prevention which should remain the prime aim of teachers in every branch of medicine. But there is also a great deal of basic pathology and an appendix which includes a number of diagnostic techniques which have been found of special value in tropical practice and

are not readily available in textbooks. Published by Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd, London. Price £10; paperback edition £5.

Chronic ulcerative colitis is the third monograph published recently and referred to in these 'Notes'. The author, J. Arnold Bagen, has had exceptionally wide experience working at the Mayo Clinic but the coverage of the subject is less complete than that recorded in the other recent publications. The success which he undoubtedly attained was in no small measure produced by his personality and the confidence which he established. His therapeutic approach was in fact much more limited than is the general practice today. The book should be of interest for gastroenterologists who are particularly concerned with colonic diseases. Price \$7.50.

Intestinal antisepsis is an impressive monograph on the production of intestinal antisepsis by antibiotics. Dr Isidore Cohn Jr has provided a remarkably informative publication which includes a considerable amount of original work which is set out against a background of 800 references to this subject. There is detailed consideration of every antibiotic available and in variable combinations. The hazards of their use are analysed in full and suitable precautions put forward, backed up by a wide clinical experience. The message comes through very clearly that with a better understanding of the effects of antibiotics on the alimentary tract they can be used without troublesome side effects and complications, and with benefit to the surgical results. Kanamycin was evaluated as the best single agent studied and has been in use routinely since 1959. For special circumstances various combinations are recommended. Published by Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. Price \$17.50.

Medicine Today (Vol. III, No. I) Edited by Rointon B. Khambatta. This is a relatively new Indian medical journal which has achieved a uniformly high standard. The current volume (January 1969) is devoted to amoebiasis with special reference to Metronidazole, a non-toxic preparation of considerable value against both intestinal and hepatic infection. Price 3s. a copy.

Immunology in Clinical Medicine by J. L. Turk. This small book aims to describe current concepts of immunology and how they affect our understanding of disease processes for clinicians not themselves working in this field but nevertheless wish to keep abreast of present-day work. Immunological concepts of alimentary disease and liver disease seem to be becoming increasingly important but final assessments have yet to be achieved. This easily read and inexpensive book brings the general reader right up to the frontier of advancing knowledge and will enable him to appreciate current research work. Price 40s. Heinemann.

The fourth *Pfizer International Symposium* held in Edinburgh in May 1968 has been published by the Edinburgh University Press edited by Ronald H. Girdwood and Adam N. Smith. This symposium on malabsorption brings together all the active workers in this field from a number of countries, and the verbatim discussion recorded after each paper gives added interest and value in underlining the unsolved problems. The symposium covers both physiological aspects of absorption and their disturbance and the important clinical syndromes associated with malabsorption. A very worthwhile and valuable publication. Price £4.

GASTROENTEROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA The Royal Australasian College of Physicians has appointed Dr Geoffrey Watkinson, of the Department of Medicine, University of Glasgow, as the first Phillip Bushell lecturer in gastroenterology. Dr Watkinson will attend and take part in the meetings of the Gastroenterological Society and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in Brisbane. Afterwards he will spend three weeks visiting other centres in Australia and New Zealand.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN GASTROINTESTINAL AND HEPATIC ENDOSCOPY AND ENDOPHOTOGRAPHY The Department of Gastroenterology of the Juan Fernandez Hospital, Buenos Aires, is to hold the second postgraduate course in gastrointestinal and hepatic endoscopy and endophotography during the last week of August 1969. Registration is limited. Address inquiries to: Dr Fernando Magnanini or Dr Ronaldo Pardo, Hospital Juan Fernandez, Sección Gastroenterología, Cerviño 3356, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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.