

Notes and activities

Twenty-fifth anniversary

On 30 May 1975 the Gastrointestinal Unit at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, celebrated the 25th anniversary of its foundation with a *Festschrift* in honour of the founders Sir John Bruce and Professor W. I. Card. A scientific meeting was attended by former members of the clinical staff and research fellows coming from as far afield as South Africa and Canada. At the evening banquet the founders were presented with specially designed silver medals bearing the unit coat of arms and the other participants received bronze replicas. For the occasion a bibliography was printed of the unit's research publications since its foundation.

The unit was the first truly combined medical and surgical gastroenterology unit in the world. In 1970 the University of Edinburgh accorded it the status of a University Unit with an independent budget. Several other units around the world have been modelled on the same pattern.

Six years ago through the generosity of the Wolfson Foundation a suite of laboratories with observation rooms and symposium/library was built immediately adjacent to the wards. In 1972 a diagnostic suite was commissioned in the new outpatient department which includes day beds, twin endoscopy theatres, a room for radiologically-controlled endoscopy procedures, a motility room with analogue to digital computerized motility facilities, and an additional academic laboratory. A team of staff nurses specially trained in a wide range of investigative procedures and directed by a sister in charge has allowed major developments in the investigation of gastrointestinal problems without having to admit the patient. The spectrum of both service and research interests in the unit remains broad, representing the surgical and medical aspects of digestive diseases.

Professor C. V. Perrier

Professor Claude Perrier died at the age of 45 in an accident on 26 July 1975. He was educated first in law and then in medicine at Lausanne, and did postgraduate work there, in Zurich, and in Geneva where he wrote his thesis on laxative-induced hypokalaemia. He spent 1961 and 1962

in the Gastroenterology Department and Pancreatic Laboratory in Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, with Doctors Dreiling and Janowitz with whom he studied pancreatic and gastric secretion, and wrote the standard monograph, *Pancreatic Inflammatory Disease* (Hoerber, 1964). He then went back to Geneva, but returned to the USA in 1967 and worked with Dr. Laster at the NIH, studying gastric mucosal adenylyl cyclase activity.

On his return to Geneva in 1970 he was appointed to a personal chair in charge of the new Department of Clinical Pharmacology. In the last five years he built up a powerful clinical research and teaching department in the University Cantonal Hospital, and was heavily involved in local and federal medical commissions. In 1972 he created *Pharma-flash*, a critical therapeutic newsletter in French that now has a circulation of 1500, a lasting monument to his intellect energy and initiative.

He was a frequent visitor to Britain, particularly in relation to courses at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, and a regular attender of meetings of the British Society of Gastroenterology to which he was elected as Corresponding Member in 1973.

Above all, Claude Perrier is mourned as an intensely live and warm personality, a devoted husband and father, and a good friend. J.H.B.

Academic appointments

Gastroenterology is well represented in recent professorial appointments. We congratulate Mr M. Hobsley on his appointment to a personal chair in Surgical Sciences at the Middlesex Hospital, London; Surgeon Commander G. J. Milton-Thompson, RN who has been appointed Professor of Naval Medicine at RN Hospital, Haslar; and Dr Graham Neale who goes to Trinity College Dublin as Professor of Medicine. Professor A. J. Zuckerman has been appointed to the Chair of Microbiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he has been Professor of Virology since 1972. He is also Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Viral Hepatitis and Consultant Clinical Virologist to the West London Hospital and North-East Metropolitan Blood Transfusion Centre. They are all members of the British Society of Gastroenterology.

Notes on Books

Refined carbohydrate and disease. Some implications of dietary fibre. Edited by D. P. Burkitt and H. C. Trowell. (Pp. xiii + 356; illustrated: \$7.80). Academic Press: London. 1975. This book is a most important publication, setting out all the background scientific and clinical data in relation to the role of refined carbohydrate foods and disease. It will facilitate the research work now in progress and will have much appeal to clinical gastroenterologists around the world.

Recent progress in anaesthesiology and resuscitation. Editors: A. Arias, R. Llauro, M. A. Nalda, and J. N. Lunn. (Pp. XXIII + 875; illustrated: \$110/75 Dfl.255.00) Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1975. This book publishes the proceedings of the IV European Congress in Anaesthesiology held in Madrid in September 1974. Although primarily of interest to anaesthetists, nevertheless, the studies on organ transplantation and resuscitation have relevance in gastroenterology.

Moments of decision in cancer of the esophagus Principal author: Seymour H. Levitt (Pp. vii + 108; illustrated: price not stated) American College of Radiography: Chicago. 1975. This is a self-testing and self-instructional unit with the answers overleaf. A most interesting and well-produced publication which should attract attention.

Correction

We regret the following errors in the July issue in the article 'Electromicroscopic observations on the effects of orally administered aspirin and aspirin-bicarbonate mixtures on the development of gastric mucosal damage in the rat', by K. D. Rainsford (*Gut*, 1975, 16, 514-527): the legends to Fig. 2b and Fig. 4 were transposed, as were those of Fig. 2a and Fig. 5.