Notes and activities

BSG Research Award 1977

Five hundred word summaries of personal research work are invited by the Research Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the award for 1977. The award consists of a medal and £100 prize.

Entrants must be 35 years or less (on 31 December 1977) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the United Kingdom or Eire.

The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary session of the Spring Meeting, 31 March-1 April 1978.

Entrants please write to: Professor H. L. Duthie, Chairman, Research Committee, University Department of Surgery, Royal Infirmary, Sheffield, 6, by 1 November 1977.

Postgraduate Course in Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology

A postgraduate course in gastrointestinal and liver pathology will be held in the Medical School, University of Nottingham, from 3 to 6 January 1978. The emphasis will be on the macroscopic and microscopic appearances in disease states and the handling and interpretation of surgical and biopsy material, with small group discussions. The total fee for the course, including University accommodation and all meals will be £60.00. Full details of the course are available from Professor Ian Dawson, Pathology Department, University of Nottingham Medical School, Nottingham NG7 2RD, to whom applications should be made.

Computed Tomography 1978

This course will be held from 16-20 January 1978 in San Francisco. Details from Extended Programs in Medical Education, 1308 Third Avenue, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143, USA.

First International Congress on Colonoscopy and Diseases of the Large Bowel

This congress will be held 2-4 March 1978 at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida. Among the speakers will be Drs. Walter Gaisford, Hiromi Shinya,

Jerry Wayne, and Christopher Williams. Those wishing to attend or present papers or movies should write to the Programme Chairman, Dr. P. Christie, 7400 North Kendall Drive, Suite 311 South Miami, Florida 33156, USA.

Books

Current Management of Acute Gastro-Intestinal Haemorrhage Edited by T. Matsumoto. (Pp. 256. Illustrated. \$19.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1977.

This book originates from a single institution, the editor and the other 11 contributors all being members of the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia. Although it has disadvantages, this approach should facilitate editorial control. Unfortunately, editorial control appears to be lacking here, and this has resulted in three major defects. First, there are considerable differences in layout and presentation between chapters. For instance, the chapter on endoscopy is limited to four pages, while radiology is given two chapters taking up a total of 134 pages. One of the radiological chapters and the pathology chapter are almost completely taken up by illustrations, with virtually no script, whereas some chapters are limited to script alone. Secondly, there is a great deal of repetition. The pathogenesis of peptic ulcer is discussed in detail in two different chapters. Methods of investigation and the incidence of different causes of bleeding are discussed not only in the chapters on methods of investigation, but also in the chapters on peptic ulcer disease and on bleeding oesophageal varices. Thirdly, there is a lot of irrelevant information that should have been excluded. Often the contents seem more appropriate to a general textbook of gastroenterology than to a book on acute gastrointestinal haemorrhage. Two pages of script are devoted to the Zollinger Ellison syndrome. Ten pages of radiographs are devoted to neoplasms of the oesophagus and small intestine. In the introduction to the 108-page chapter on barium studies (page 67), it is stated that

'it cannot be over-emphasised that bleeding may be minor or absent in any of these lesions. More often they cause various clinical gastrointestinal symptoms with little or no bleeding'. I agree.

T. C. NORTHFIELD

Experimental Production of Diseases. Vol. XVI: Part 5 Liver Edited by Oskar Eichler. (Pp. 379. Illustrated. Price not stated) Springer: Berlin. 1976.

The latest volume in the series 'Experimental Production of Diseases' is devoted to liver disease. One of the main sections—experimental hepatotoxicity by H. J. Zimmerman—must constitute the best review on liver injury from toxins and drugs available in the literature at present. All the background knowledge on chemistry, particularly reactions in the liver, whether predictable or idiosyncratic, and the experimental as well as clinical implications are covered in a most lucid fashion. There is also a major contribution from Ian Mackay on liver disease due to infection and allergy, which again is very comprehensive and brings together in an easily readable fashion information for which one usually has to search widely. The section on radiation-induced injury of the liver will be of less general interest, but overall this is a well worthwhile book and those fortunate enough to come across a copy will be very grateful to the contributors for their obvious hard work. A 'must' for the bookshelf of all those interested in the liver, whether a clinician or an experimentalist.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Proceedings: Minisymposium on Neonatal Diarrhea in Calves and Pigs May 3 and 4, 1976, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada (Pp. 155. Illustrated. Price not stated) VIDO: University of Saskatchewan: Saskatoon, Canada. 1977. Although these proceedings relate primarily to veterinary problems, nevertheless the basic research work is closely related to similar conditions affecting infants, and paediatric gastroenterologists particularly should be in touch with this work. The Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) is a research unit associated with the University of Saskatchewan. A second international symposium is to be held on 9-11 October 1978, and further information can be obtained from Ms. M. Permut, VIDO Trailers, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, S7N 0W0.