Notes and activities

Royal Free Hospital: Liver Disease

The Third International Update on Liver Disease will be held on 15-17 June 1978 at the Royal Free Hospital, London. Topics include alcoholic liver injury, bilirubin metabolism, hepatic coma, cholangiography, drug toxicity, acute and chronic hepatitis, immunology, gallstones, case discussions, and liver biopsy interpretations. Speakers include H. Dowling, W. C. Maddrey, H. Popper, F. Schaffner, S. W. Schalm, R. Zeppa, A. J. Zuckerman, and staff of the Royal Free Hospital. Apply to Professor Sheila Sherlock, Royal Free Hospital, London, NW3 2QG.

V Bile Acid Meeting

The V Bile Acid Meeting, 'Biological Effects of Bile Acids' (Falk Symposium No. 26) will take place on 12-13 June 1978 at Freiburg/Br West Germany. Topics will include autoregulation of bile acid synthesis; effects of bile acids on cholesterol biosynthesis, bile composition and flow, and intestinal absorption and secretion; bile acid-induced cholelitholysis and tissue injury. Details from G. Paumgartner, MD, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Berne, Murtenstrasse 35, CH-3010 Berne, Switzerland.

Postgraduate Course in Advanced Gastroenterology

This major full-time course in advanced gastroenterology will be held in London, U.K. from 13 November to 8 December 1978 and is intended for doctors with a special interest in the specialty. Most of the London gastroenterological units take part in the teaching, ensuring detailed and up-to-date coverage of the subject. The course will emphasise the scientific, diagnostic, and therapeutic aspects of gastroenterology, with special attention to recent advances of practical relevance. Teaching and clinical sessions will take place at the following London hospitals: Central Middlesex Hospital (Dr G. Misiewicz), Guy's Hospital (Professor H. Dowling), King's College Hospital (Dr R. Williams), Royal Free Hospital (Professor S. Sherlock), Royal Postgraduate Medical School (Dr V. Chadwick), St Bartholomew's Hospital (Dr A. Dawson), St Mark's Hospital

(Mr P. Hawley), The Middlesex Hospital (Dr P. Cotton). The fee for the four week's course is £200. Help with finding accommodation in London can be provided on request.

Applications for places should be made to the Secretary, Gastroenterology Course, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London, WC1N 3EJ, United Kingdom. Tel: 01-831 6222. Early application is advised.

Books

Topics in Gastroenterology, 5 Edited by S. C. Truelove and Emanuel Lee. (Pp. 349; illustrated. £13.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford. 1977. This annual publication records the papers given in the postgraduate symposium which has now become an established feature of the British gastroenterological scene. The symposium related to cancer of the large bowel, with special reference to epidemiology and predisposing mechanisms, and also recorded the results of surgery in both a specialised hospital and in district general hospitals. The second section was concerned with drugs and the liver, covering metabolic, clinical, and histological aspects. The next section covered surgical considerations concerning bile duct disease, and the final section included miscellaneous topics—'Which vagotomy?', 'The carcinoid syndrome', 'The virology and pathogenesis of acute infectious diarrhoea', a particularly useful detailed account of *Yersinia* infections, and a study on coeliac disease. The excellent presentation and standard of the communications and the attractive form of publication make this a much valued annual publication.

F. AVERY JONES

Membrane Alterations as Basis of Liver Injury Edited by Hans Popper, Leonardo Bianchi, and Werner Reutter. Pp. 384. Illustrated. £13.95. MTP Press: Lancaster, England. 1977.

This book is based on the Proceedings of a Falk Symposium held in Basel in October 1976. The investigation of biological membranes has blossomed in the last decade. However, there are few publications devoted to liver membrane and the relation to cell injury. Certainly none as comprehensive as this book. The presentations vary, some of them are comprehensive reviews, others are papers usually published by specialty journals, some are only prolonged abstracts, and a few may be designated as progress reports. They do, however, represent the last word from international experts in this field. All are worth reading, and one might particularly single out the introduction and summary by Hans Popper, the article by F. Gudat and L. Bianchi on hepatitis B antigen as a target antigen in the liver cell, and, finally, that by J. L. Boyer and his colleagues on the mechanisms of cholestasis.

The book is beautifully produced and illustrated. The price is high but can hardly be less in view of the presentation. The book can be recommended to all hepatologists interested in membranes. It may well become their Bible.

SHEILA SHERLOCK

Pathogenesis of Intestinal Infections Microbiological and Pathological Principles. Edited by M. V. Voino-Yasenetsky and T. Bakács. (Pp. 419; illustrated; £15.) Akademia Klado: Budapest. 1977.

Human intestinal infections are still a severe problem not only in the countries of the third world but also in developed countries, and there are many unanswered questions particularly about the pathogenesis of the disease processes. A book, such as this, which brings together a great deal of information about intestinal infections must therefore be welcome.

The first part of the book is concerned with the general principles of the study of intestinal infections and the remaining three sections cover dysentery, salmonella infections, and infections due to *Escherichia coli*.

In all the sections great emphasis is laid on the experimental models which have been used to study the infections. Thus, there are chapters on intraperitoneal challenge with salmonellae and shigellae, on experimental shigella keratoconjunctivitis, and on intravesical and intranasal challenge. Enteral challenge of animals with *Escherichia coli* and the use of

ligated ileal segments is covered in detail.

All the sections are well illustrated, and the bibliography related to all the aspects discussed above is extensive: this is a very useful part of the book.

This is a valuable reference book. It will be most used by people working directly in this field to whom it will be a useful source book of references and information.

E. MARY COOKE

Mucus in Health and Disease (Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, vol. 89) Edited by Max Elstein and Dennis V. Parke. (Price not quoted.) Plenum Publishing: New York. 1977.

Mucus *British Medical Bulletin*. (£5.00). Published by the Medical Department, The British Council. London. 1977.

The first publication brings together the papers given at a symposium held at the University of Surrey in September 1976. It was a multidisciplinary meeting, bringing together basic scientists and clinicians and discussing human mucus in relation to the gastrointestinal, respiratory, and genitourinary tracts. The production and secretion of mucus in gastrointestinal injury and disease was fully covered, together with much chemical and physicochemical work concerned with the structure of mucus and the changes in pathological states. This is the first symposium which has been held on this subject. The opening keynote address by Professor J. R. Clamp is a particularly good introduction and the concluding remarks by Professor Lynne Reid highlight the fields for further study.

Professor Clamp, having played a leading role in the recently published symposium on mucus, accepted an invitation to edit a number of the *British Medical Bulletin* on this subject, bringing together the scientific work in Great Britain in this field. This was done in the usual *British Medical Bulletin* tradition of studies in depth. The two volumes indeed are complementary. There is much in both publications of special interest for gastroenterologists.

F. AVERY JONES

Gastroenterology. An Integrated Course (2nd edition) By Iain E. Gillespie and T. J. Thomson. (Pp. 288. Illustrated.

£3.95.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1977.

In Glasgow, as in other medical schools, a considerable amount of integration has been introduced into the instruction of clinical subjects and this volume is based on the main topics discussed concerning gastroenterology. It will be invaluable for those students who happen to miss a particular session, but in fact it will also be a real help to any junior doctor, and these 288 pages will quickly bring them up to date. Indeed, there have been a number of important changes since the first edition was published in 1972.

Gastroenterology Second edition By Ian A. D. Bouchier. (Pp. 384; illustrated; £4.50, limp.) Bailliere Tindall: London. 1977.

The author has been unable to resist the temptation to add rather than to delete, and the monograph has increased in size. Nevertheless, it still remains essentially a small book, but manages to include all the essentials of gastroenterology in a very readable form and well reflects the author's wide experience. It should appeal to non-specialist clinicians as well as to gastroenterologists.

Paediatric Implications for some Adult Disorders. Edited by Donald Barltrop. (£4.00.) Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine: London. 1977.

This is a record of the Fourth Unigate Paediatric Workshop held at the Royal College of Physicians in May 1976, the purpose of the meeting being to explore the origins of adult diseases in childhood, with special reference to early presymptomatic diagnosis and the identification of predisposing factors. The main subjects covered were renal calculi, lactase deficiency, obesity, and hypertension.

Advanced Medicine, 13. Edited by Michael Besser. (Price not quoted.) Pitman Medical: London. 1977.

This annual publication covers progress in the main divisions of medicine. The gastroenterology section includes 'Colitis: control or cure', J. E. Lennard-Jones; 'Gut hormones and disease', S. R. Bloom; 'A flexible view of the gut: from above', P. B. Cotton; and 'A flexible view of the gut: from below', Christopher B. Williams. The publication maintains the very high standard of its predecessors.