Notes and activities

Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock

We record with pleasure that Professor Sheila Sherlock professor of medicine, Royal Free School of Medicine, was appointed DBE in the Birthday Honours List.

British Society of Gastroenterology

Research Funds

Applications are invited for financial support for research, education and travel or equipment from the Society's research funds. For application forms and further information concerning specific guidelines, please contact the Honorary Secretary, University College Hospital, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London, WC1E 6JJ. Closing dates for applications: 1 February and 1 August.

Liver Meetings:

There are two forthcoming liver meetings—namely:

The 13th Meeting of the European Association for the study of the liver will meet in Padua, Italy, on 31 August–2 September 1978. The programme will include 36 communications, six working parties, and two symposia. The secretary of the Association is Wolfgang Arnold, Freie Universität Berlin, Klinikum Charlottenburg, Department of Internal Medicine, Spandauer Damm 130, 1000 Berlin 19 (Fed. Rep. Germany).

The International Association for the study of the liver will meet at Fuengirola, near Malaga, Spain, on 20–21 October 1978. There will be time for 36 communications. Abstracts by 15 June to Dr. N. Tygstrup, Medical Department A, Rigshospitalet; 9 Blegdamsvej, 2100, Copenhagen Ø, Denmark. There will also be a two days' postgraduate course on advances in the treatment of liver diseases. Write to Carroll M. Leevy, New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey, USA.

Books

Atlas of Gray Scale Ultrasonography Kenneth J. W. Taylor. (Pp. 411. Illustrated. £19.50.) Churchill Livingstone: London. 1978.

Ultrasound as a diagnostic tool became available in the late '60s and was taken up with enthusiasm by obstetricians but few others. It was not until the grey scale imaging techniques came into general use in 1974 that ultrasound had much to offer the gastroenterologist. Since then the use

of ultrasound diagnostic techniques in gastroenterology has increased steadily and its value as an early, non-invasive diagnostic process shown, but there are many clinicians who are unaware of its potential and confused by the images produced.

This book provides an introduction to diagnostic ultrasound and its techniques, making no assumption of previous knowledge. Indications for scanning are discussed and the list, though not exhaustive, indicates clinical problems in which ultrasound can give valuable information. The remainder of the book is a comprehensive collection of ultrasound images with histories and clear, labelled, explanatory diagrams illustrating normal and pathological appearances. The chapters on liver, biliary system, and pancreas are of particular interest to the gastroenterologist and make the images obtained much more comprehensible to the non-ultrasonologist. Spleen, kidney, and great vessels are well covered but 50 pages do not do justice to the enormous field of obstetric ultrasound. A number of rare lesions are illustrated, clearly imaged by ultrasound, but it is important to remember that tissue diagnosis may require supplementary techniques.

Though published from America, this book is based largely on Dr Taylor's work at the Royal Marsden Hospital. As a consequence, it uses British conventions of display and presentation of images. It will provide a valuable reference for ultrasonologists and a useful introduction to help the clinician to ask the right questions and make the best use of this relatively new technique.

RODNEY H. TAYLOR

Microbial Ecology of the Gut Edited by R. T. J. Clarke and T. Bauchop. (Pp. 410. Illustrated. £13.50.) Academic Press: London. 1978.

This book on the intestinal ecology of man and animals contains nine chapters, four contributed by the editors (both New Zealanders) and the remaining five by leading authorities from the United States (three), the United Kingdom (one), and Holland (one). It is, therefore, a truly international undertaking. The first two chapters contain background material on microbiological and ecological techniques and on the microbes to be found in the gut. The next three chapters consider background data on the biochemical activities of the gut flora *in vitro*, in the hind gut and

then in the foregut. Interactions are then considered between microbes (chapter 6) and between host and microbes (chapter 7). Much of the data on the latter interactions have been obtained from studies of gnotobiology and this is considered in chapter 8. The last chapter deals with the role of mathematical models. The references are grouped at the end of each chapter; there is also a comprehensive index to subjects and another to organisms at the end of the book.

Very much more information is available concerning the animal gut than that of the human and this is reflected in the contents of the book. Consideration of the whole animal kingdom allows a much fuller discussion of, for example, the factors controlling the gut flora and of the host-microbe interactions. The chapter on mathematical models is especially welcome as, hopefully, the shape of things to come.

The alimentary tract provides an ideal situation for the study of microbial ecology and there has been a need for a book covering the work in animals together with the human studies. This book fills that gap and is highly recommended to all interested in this field. To those of us who study the human gut one of the main contributions of this book will be to keep us aware of how far our studies lag behind those of the veterinarians!

M. J. HILL

Infections and Parasitic Diseases of the Intestine. Discussions in Patient Management By H. A. Reimann and K. Juniper. (Pp. 115. £6.) Kimpton: London. 1977.

This is a concise book of many short chapters, the first half on viral, bacterial, and mycotic enteritis, and the second on parasitic diseases of the intestine, including a reference section on antiparasitic drugs. The authors start by using the word 'dysentery' to mean bowel trouble, leading to chapter headings like 'viral dysentery' and 'clostridial alimentary dysentery'. As this contradicts both centuries of medical usage and the standard English dictionaries, in all of which 'dysentery' connotes inflammation of the large bowel, misunderstanding is bound to follow such blatant disregard of common usage. More seriously, although many useful facts are presented, the treatment is in general superficial, and, for many subjects, so brief as to be valueless—for example, a single short paragraph on gluten-sensitive