Notes and activities

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.

Stomach Cancer Group
Stomach cancer is the third most common cancer in Britain. At present, only one in six of those in whom the growth is radically resected will survive for five years' time and, overall, the five year survival is less than 10%. Appalled by the outlook for such patients, this group of interested clinicians has been meeting in an attempt to improve the treatment of stomach cancer.

For the past 18 months they have entered patients after gastrectomy to a multicentre controlled trial of cytotoxic chemotherapy. Drug therapy is given for two years after operation. The regime of 5-fluorouracil and mitomycin-C given once every three weeks is well tolerated by the patients, and the incidence of side-effects is low. All patients are being closely monitored, in particular, for biochemical and haematological changes.

So far, eight centres are involved and 137 cases have been entered into the study. They would welcome to this group others keen to study this disease and its treatment. The chairman of the group is Mr V. S. Brookes (consultant surgeon, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham), while the secretary is Dr P. F. M. Wrigley (consultant physician, Department of Medical Oncology, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, ECI). All communications should be addressed to Dr P. F. M. Wrigley at the address given.

British Council: Inflammatory Bowel Diseases
A residential course for overseas specialists with some years' experience in practising gastroenterology will take place from 18-29 March 1979 in Birmingham. The course will discuss the theoretical background and practical management of inflammatory bowel disease including ischaemic colitis and pseudomembranous colitis. Major topics will include aetiology; immunology; epidemiology; differential diagnosis (including Crohn's disease; ulcerative colitis) together with a discussion of clinical presentation, radiology, colonoscopy and histopathology, incidence rates, surveillance, and prevention of cancer. The course directors are J. Alexander-Williams and R. N. Allan. Other speakers include C. M. Anderson, D. Burden, D. Dykes, J. Lee, M. Keighley, H. Thompson, B. N. Brooke, V. Chadwick, A. M. Dawson, G. Hill, H. Hodgson, D. Jewell, J. Kyle, H. E. Larsen, M. J. S. Langman, E. Lee, H. E. Lockhart-Mumery, J. E. Lennard-Jones, A. Marston, B. C. Morson, A. Price, K. Simpkin, and S. C. Truelove. The course will take place at the General Hospital, Birmingham, which celebrates its 200th anniversary during the period. On the evening of 28 March members will attend the joint meeting of the Sections of Surgery and of Proctology of the Royal Society of Medicine in London (Subject: Gastrointestinal bleeding of small and large bowel origin). The course disbands in London on 29 March in time for those interested to attend the Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology in Hull, 29-30 March. Birmingham members of the Society are prepared to introduce course members as their guests. Course fee, including board lodging (demi-pension): £430. Apply by 30 November through British Council in your own country.

West of Scotland Committee for Postgraduate Medical Education, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow: Internal Medicine
A new course which may be taken in whole or in part will be held from 6 November—15 December 1978 in Glasgow. The course consists of 12 topics, covering the major specialties—namely: cardiology, dermatology, gastroenterology, alcoholism and addiction, respiratory disease, haematology, renal disease, neurology, rheumatology and immunology, psychiatry, endocrinology and diabetes, clinical pharmacology. Apply for details to Dean of Postgraduate Medicine, The University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

Oxford Course on Postgraduate Gastroenterology
The seventh Oxford annual course on postgraduate gastroenterology will be held in the Radcliffe Infirmary 1-10 January 1979. Accommodation will be available in St. Anne's College, which is located immediately across the road from the Radcliffe Infirmary. The main topics will be peptic ulcer, some immunological aspects of gastroenterology, and some metabolic aspects of the intestinal mucosa. For further details, write to Dr S. C. Truelove, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Books


This is an edited book of 16 chapters written by senior authorities in their field who bring together those disorders where dietary control plays an important role. In addition, it deals with the nutritional problems of infancy and childhood, and there is an excellent section on mineral metabolism that collects together data about the essential biological metals. Its role is clearly complementary to standard textbooks or progress reviews, but one hopes that more and more of this information will become an accepted part of the normal textbooks of medical practice, as proper feeding is only one aspect of overall medical care. An important section, by one of the editors, is the interrelationships of nutrition and drugs—an aspect which has attracted relatively little attention in the past, but which has important practical repercussions in clinical medicine.


The digestive system of the pig contains almost all the features found in the digestive system of any mammal and its study is, therefore, a sound basis for its understanding in any other mammal.