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 form 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.

Sir Arthur Hurst Centenary: Meeting and Dinner.

Sir Arthur Hurst founded the British Society of Gastroenterology in 1937 and the hundredth anniversary of his birth occurs on 23 July 1979. A Centenary Meeting and Dinner in his memory will take place at the Royal College of Physicians and consist of a half-day of scientific papers from 2.30 to 6.00, followed by a general meeting (6.30 to 7.30) with an address about Sir Arthur by Dr Thomas Hunt and Sir Roger Ormrod. A banquet at the College with wives and guests will follow.

This meeting will commemorate Sir Arthur's life and work and launch an appeal for support towards an 'Arthur Hurst Research Fellowship' which the British Digestive Foundation is inaugurating.

Thanks to support from the BSG, BDF, and the Winthrop Laboratories the inclusive fee for the meeting and dinner will be £5 per person.

A number of speakers have already accepted an invitation to review some of the ideas which Sir Arthur expressed in his writings and to consider them in the light of present-day knowledge and research.

Fund for Research at the London

The London Hospital Medical College has announced a gift of £1 million by the Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation for gastrointestinal research. Most of the money will go towards a specially designed building housing laboratories and other services, while the remainder will provide a fund for its upkeep and maintenance.

First European Congress on Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

This conference will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 2-5 September 1979, and will include a session on parenteral nutrition in gastroenterology. Further information may be obtained from the Congress Secretariat: 1st European Congress on Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, c/o RESO Congress Service, S-105 24 Stockholm, Sweden.

Twentieth Anniversary Conference of Indian Society of Gastroenterology

This will be held at the B. J. Medical College, Pune 411 005, Maharashtra State, India on 12, 13, and 14 October 1979. The delegate fees are \$40/-. Please contact Organising Secretary: Dr Manohar J. Joshi, 1194/23 Ghole Road, Pune 411 005. India.

Books

Gastrointestinal Tract Cancer Edited by Martin Lipkin and Robert A. Good. (Pp. 602. Illustrated. \$45.00.) Plenum Medical: New York. 1978.

In bringing together the various chapters of this book the editors have sought to emphasise 'recent findings having the best potential for improving our understanding of fundamental processes in gastrointestinal neoplasia, and of equal importance for application to clinical oncology'.

The book is well produced with clear illustrations and referencing to recent literature at least until 1976, and with some citations in 1977.

The epidemiological sections are well written with good general coverage of all common gastrointestinal cancers. By contrast, the sections on experimental models of carcinogenesis are excessively detailed and repetitive, while sections on management are exclusively confined to colorectal cancer with emphasis on early detection and monitoring recurrence, and on chemotherapy. With harsher editing, much of the repetitive material could have been compressed, which would have allowed sections to be included on, for instance, treatment of tumours outside the large intestine, early cancer of the stomach, and the

value of newer diagnostic procedures in other cancers, particularly pancreatic cancer.

The claim on the book jacket that there is a singular degree of comprehensive coverage is misplaced. This is essentially a series of individual essays, a book for the individual to borrow but not to buy; apart from the epidemiological sections, those on the management and prevention of colorectal cancer are particularly worthwhile.

M. J. S. LANGMAN

Percutaneous Hepatography: the Kinetic Method of Injection of Contrast Medium By E. Deimer. (Pp. 160. Illustrated. Price not stated.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1977.

The author has developed a technique of injecting contrast material into the liver and so visualises the intrahepatic portal vein and hepatic vein and bile duct systems. Observations of the lymphatic system are interesting. In the author's hands, this technique gives satisfactory results. Others may prefer more traditional methods of achieving the same.

The book is of limited interest. The illustrations are magnificent.

SHEILA SHERLOCK

Diagnosis of Liver Disease By E. Schmidt, F. W. Schmidt, H. Themann, J. Thurner, and H. Wallnofer. (Pp. 299. Illustrated. £43.) G. Thieme: Stuttgart. 1977.

This is an extremely elegant book that brings together and emphasises the value of different diagnostic techniques in the evaluation of liver disease. The diagnostic techniques described include liver function tests, scintigraphy, sonography, angiography, laparoscopy, and needle biopsy with electron microscopy. The common hepatobiliary diseases are well covered with an abundance of illustrations interspaced with descriptions of the disease, its course and the use of the various investigations. The pleasure of this book is increased by the beautiful colour illustration of laparoscopic appearances. These are likely to be useful to the British reader as laparoscopy is probably underused in this country.

A much larger number of biochemical tests appear to be routinely used by the authors in Germany than is customary in Great Britain. They also use ratios of various enzymes with unfamiliar names.

such as De-Ritis ratio and the TGR. These are used descriptively without any detailed discussion of the origin of the enzyme, its specificity, or even its name: all enzymes are referred to by initials—for example, GOT, CHE, GLDH. The assumption of familiarity with these abbreviations may be correct for the continental reader, but is likely to be received with dismay in this English translation aimed at the British and American markets. The book should prove useful to a British physician wanting to assess the value of laparoscopy. Its price may deter others from purchasing it even for their library.

J. LEVI

Radiologic Examination of the Orohypopharynx and Esophagus By Costantino Zaino and Thomas C. Beneventano. (Pp. 310. Illustrated. DM 120, \$60.) Springer: New York. 1977.

The pharynx and oesophagus have suddenly become interesting to publishers, who are vying with each other to produce glossier and more comprehensive tomes. This book has 450 illustrations, 310 pages, 274 references—the pages are only three-quarters filled, the paper is too shiny to read with comfort, and the price is an expensive £30 or more. But the print is clear, the *x-ray* pictures sharp, the production generally is of high quality, and the contents will be much appreciated by radiologists, especially those in training. This is a comprehensive work with an adequate measure of anatomy, physiology, and pathology to lead up to the radiological appearances of almost everything known to affect these organs.

Most books treat the pharynx rather superficially and give the impression that the authors do not understand the anatomy and mechanics. This book gives a much more detailed account, reflecting the very extensive post-mortem anatomical studies of Dr Zaino. Their concept of the upper oesophageal sphincter and closing mechanism is, however, unorthodox. There are good sections on embryology and developmental anomalies, and on external factors affecting the contour of the barium shadow, but the chapter on functional, psychic, and neuromuscular disturbances lacks precision and does not take full account of the different patterns of dysphagia as described by the patient. The word 'spasm' is used rather indiscriminately and reflects our lack of

understanding of these problems.

This is a book for the *x-ray* department library; for radiologists rather than gastroenterologists.

D. A. W. EDWARDS

Note

Derek Crouch Fellowship in Gastroenterology

The British Digestive Foundation for research into the prevention and treatment of alimentary and liver disorders is now offering the Derek Crouch Fellowship in Gastroenterology. Applicants for this full-time Fellowship should be of registrar/senior registrar status and the salary will be commensurate to the applicant's salary at the time of appointment. The award will be granted for one year extendable to two years.

Further information may be obtained from the Secretary, The British Digestive Foundation, Room D, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W1A 2LN by 31 March.