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The object of *Gut* is to publish original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in the field of gastroenterology. The field is that of alimentary, hepatic, or pancreatic disease, and papers may cover the medical, surgical, radiological, or historical aspects. They may also deal with the basic sciences concerned with the alimentary tract, including experimental work. The report of a single case will be accepted only if it is of sufficient interest in relation to a wider field of research.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of papers should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR. Papers are accepted only on the understanding that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee. They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On the paper the name of the author should appear with initials (or distinguishing Christian name) only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. Communications should be kept short, and illustrations should be included when necessary; coloured illustrations are allowed only if monochrome will not satisfactorily demonstrate the condition. A short summary should be provided at the beginning of the paper.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or international reply coupon is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS Only essential Figures and Tables should be included. *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. Magnification scales, if necessary, should be lettered on these. Where possible, prints should be trimmed to column width (i.e. 2½ in). *Diagrams* These will usually be reduced to 2½ in wide. Lettering should be in either Letraset or stencil, and care should be taken that lettering and symbols are of comparable size. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text, they should be marked on the back with Figure numbers, title of paper, and name of author. All photographs, graphs, and diagrams should be referred to as Figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet. *Tables* Tables should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals and each typed on a separate sheet.

ETHICS Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *British Medical Journal* (1964), 2, 177)).

ABBREVIATIONS In general, symbols and abbreviations should be those used by the *Biochemical Journal*. In any paper concerning electrolyte metabolism, it is desirable that data be calculated as mEq/l. All measurements except blood pressure should be expressed in SI units (see *Journal of Clinical Pathology* (1974), 27, 590-

597; *British Medical Journal* (1974), 4, 490), followed by traditional units in parentheses. Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

REFERENCES In the text these should follow the Harvard system—that is, name followed by date; James and Smith (1970). If there are more than two authors they should be cited as James *et al.* (1970) even the first time that they appear. The list of references should be typed in double spacing and in alphabetical order on a separate sheet. Such references should give the author's name, followed by initials and year of publication in brackets, *the title of the article quoted*, the name (in full) of the journal in which the article appeared, the volume number in Arabic numerals, followed by numbers of first and last pages of article.

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The March 1979 Issue

THE MARCH 1979 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

- Radiographic and haemodynamic patterns of portal hypertension in hepatosplenic schistosomiasis: selection of surgical procedures M. A. EL-GENDI
- Liver damage associated with perhexiline maleate D. LEWIS, H. C. WAINWRIGHT, M. C. KEW, S. ZWI, AND C. ISAACSON
- Changes in hepatitis B virus DNA polymerase in relation to the outcome of acute hepatitis type B A. ALBERTI, S. DIANA, A. L. W. F. EDDLESTON, AND ROGER WILLIAMS
- Non-invasive techniques in the diagnosis of jaundice—ultrasound and computer P. G. WHEELER, A. THEODOSSI, R. PICKFORD, J. LAWS, R. P. KNILL-JONES, AND ROGER WILLIAMS
- Plasma glucagon in diabetes of haemochromatosis: too low or too high? W. A. MULLER, M. BERGER, H. J. CÜPPERS, P. BERCHTOLD, G. STROHMEYER, A. E. RENOLD, J. R. HOFSTETTER, AND J.-J. GONVERS
- Relationship between endotoxaemia and protein concentration of ascites in cirrhotic patients K. TARAO, T. MOROI, Y. NAGAKURA, T. IKEUCHI, T. SUYAMA, O. ENDO, AND K. FUKUSHIMA
- Patchy enteropathy in childhood P. D. MANUEL, J. A. WALKER-SMITH, AND N. E. FRANCE
- Amylase activity in human bile L. A. DONALDSON, S. N. JOFFE, W. MCINTOSH, AND M. J. BRODIE
- Demonstration of human apolipoprotein A in isolated mucosal cells from small intestine and isolated hepatocytes U. HOPF, G. ASSMANN, H.-E. SCHAEFER, AND A. CAPURSO
- HLA AW19, B12 in immunoproliferative small intestinal disease B. NIKBIN, M. BANISADRE, F. ALA, AND A. MOJTABAI
- Oral BCG vaccine in Crohn's disease W. R. BURNHAM, J. E. LENNARD-JONES, P. HECKETSWEILER, R. COLIN, AND Y. GEFFROY
- Effects of age, antigen deprivation, and allograft rejection on epithelial cell kinetics in mouse colon R. J. HOLDEN AND ANNE FERGUSON
- Colonic adenomas—a colonoscopy survey P. E. GILLESPIE, T. J. CHAMBERS, K. W. CHAN, F. DORONZO, B. C. MORSON, AND C. B. WILLIAMS
- Cell proliferation in the human gallbladder epithelium: effect of distension Ph. PUTZ AND G. WILLEMS
- Postprandial gastric function in pancreatic insufficiency P. T. REGAN, JUAN-R. MALAGELADA, E. P. DIMAGNO, AND V. L. W. GO

Case report

- Hepatocellular carcinoma in primary biliary cirrhosis: report of four cases N. KRASNER, P. J. JOHNSON, B. PORTMANN, G. WATKINSON, R. N. M. MACSWEEN, AND ROGER WILLIAMS

Notes and activities; Books

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 9JR, price £3.50, including postage

Notes and activities

British Society of Gastroenterology and British Society for Digestive Endoscopy: preliminary announcement.

The next Annual Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology and British Society for Digestive Endoscopy will be held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, from 18 to 21 September 1979. There will be a teaching half-day on Tuesday, 18 September. The Sir Arthur Hurst Lecture will be held on Thursday, 20 September. Full details will be sent to all members of both Societies in due course. All preliminary inquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Local Secretary, Dr K. F. R. Schiller, Cherwell, Knowl Hill, Woking, Surrey.

Newcastle Conference

A conference on cell proliferation in the gastrointestinal tract will be held in Newcastle upon Tyne, 10-12 September 1979. Abstracts by 15 May, applications before 15 July 1979. Details from Dr D. R. Appleton, Department of Medical Statistics, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4AA, England.

Société Nationale Française de Proctologie

A meeting will be held in Marseilles on 20 October 1979 on 'Les incontinences anales'. Details from Dr P. Délécourt, Hôpital Nord, Marseilles, France.

Ileostomy Association of Great Britain and Ireland

Mr Leslie Kingston, MBE, has retired as Director of Administration of the Ileostomy Association and is succeeded by Mr Chris Penney. The Association's new address is 23 Winchester Road, Basingstoke, Hants (telephone: Basingstoke (STD 0256) 21288).

Books

Viral Hepatitis: Etiology, Epidemiology, Pathogenesis and Prevention By C. N. Vyas, S. N. Cohen, and R. Schmid. (Pp. 748. Illustrated. \$49.50.) Franklin Institute Press: Philadelphia. 1978. This book comprises the proceedings of an International Symposium on Viral Hepa-

titis held in March 1978 in San Francisco.

World authorities attended this meeting and the paper presented provides about the last word on viral hepatitis as of March 1978.

The section on transfusion hepatitis, with particular reference to non-A and non-B hepatitis, is particularly timely.

The editors are to be congratulated on the speed at which this book has appeared. It is strongly recommended for reference for all those working in the field.

SHEILA SHERLOCK

Substance P (Volume 1) 1977 By P. Skrabaneck and D. Powell. (Pp. 181. £11.50.) Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh. 1978.

This book is a review of all published data on Substance P from 1931 to November 1977. There are about 700 references, including some papers in press at the time the book was written. The eleven chapters deal with chemistry, assay methods, structure-activity relationships, occurrence and distribution, inactivation, pharmacological and functional interactions, pharmacological effects, neurotransmission, pain and opiates, psychopharmacology, and pathophysiology. In addition, there is a short foreword which briefly describes the history of Substance P, a fairly good index, and the references presented alphabetically in full.

Each chapter is a catalogue and brief description of the published work. Unfortunately, the authors rarely give their own views on contentious aspects or on the direction that future research should take, and they do not comment on the quality of the research they cite. Nevertheless, the book is undoubtedly of value to all those interested in Substance P. It gives a good overall picture, and provides an easy and quick way of finding out what has been done. Although only a small part concerns the gastrointestinal tract, the book will be of value to those interested in gut hormones and basic aspects of gastroenterology.

A. BENNETT

The Biological Importance of Bile Salts (Frontiers of Biology, Vol. 47) By G. A. D. Haslewood. (Pp. 206. Illustrated. US \$55.75; D fl 125.00.) North-Holland: Amsterdam. 1978.

Yet another text on bile salts? Well, yes, but a book with a difference: it is aimed particularly at biologists and has an emphasis on the comparative biochemistry and evolutionary aspects of bile acids and bile alcohols. Professor Haslewood

paints a large canvas and covers the physiology, chemistry, biosynthesis, medical significance, as well as the comparative biochemistry of these important sterols; and all in a mere 190 pages. Intentionally the chemistry of the bile salts has not been presented in any detail. The book is well set out and the text easy to read; but inevitably the superficiality of cover elicits minor criticism. It is not strictly correct to claim that 'both canalicular and ductular bile secretion are divisible into a "bile-salt dependent" and a "bile-salt independent" phase'; more could have been made of the striking species differences in bile secretory patterns; the important controversy whether bile acid or cholesterol is responsible for feed-back control of bile acid synthesis is treated too lightly; and the section dealing with the complex changes in bile salts accompanying liver disease might have benefited from greater elaboration. This is not a book for the expert; but it will have considerable appeal to a wide audience of clinicians and basic scientists who have an interest in the bile. Inevitably the strength of the book lies in the remarkable account of the distribution of bile salts within the animal kingdom and their evolutionary significance. What a fascinating story and who better to tell it than Professor Haslewood?

I. A. D. BOUCHIER

Liver and Aging 1978 Edited by Kenichi Kitani. (Pp. 388. Illustrated. ca: £35.) Elsevier/North Holland. Biomedical Press: Amsterdam. 1978.

This unusual book is a collection of papers read at a symposium on Liver and Aging held in Tokyo. The range of subjects is enormous but chiefly describes experimental work in animals and includes not only papers on the morphological and biochemical changes with age, but also changes in bile acid metabolism and the kinetics of drugs in man. The difficulty of the field is emphasised by the editor who points out that it may cost £400 to maintain one rat for three years until it is old enough for experiments.

Some of the papers are of limited value, but others contain fascinating data that would be difficult otherwise to find. This volume at about £35.00 cannot be generally recommended, but it will be valuable to those in the whole field of aging, and, in particular, the pharmacokinetic chapters will interest clinical pharmacologists.

R. P. H. THOMPSON

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