

Notes and activities

Gastroenterology in the DGH

The booklet *Provision of a Gastroenterological Service in the District General Hospital*, prepared by a Working Party of the Gastroenterological Liaison Committee with the Department of Health and Social Security, has been circulated to all members, but copies may be obtained free from the Administrative Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, University College Hospital Medical School, 5 University Street, London WC1.

First European Congress on Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

This congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 2 to 5 September 1979. There will be six symposia, free papers, and poster sessions, and two seminars will be arranged for nurses, dieticians, and pharmacists. Details may be obtained from 1st European Congress on Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, c/o RESO Congress Service, S-105 24 Stockholm, Sweden.

International Symposium: HBsAg Containing Immune Complexes: Renal and Other Extrahepatic Manifestations

This congress will be held on 21-22 September, at Porto Cervo, Emerald Coast, Sardinia, Italy. Details may be obtained from L. Chiandussi and E. Bartoli, Istituto Patologia Medica Università, viale San Pietro 12, 07100 Sassari, Italy.

Joint meeting: American Pancreatic Association and National Pancreatic Cancer Project

The annual joint scientific meeting of the American Pancreatic Association, Inc. and the National Pancreatic Cancer Project will be held on 1 and 2 November 1979, in Chicago, Illinois. Correspondence for the respective meetings should be directed to Dr Frank P. Brooks, Executive Secretary, American Pancreatic Association, Inc., Box 652, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA or Dr Isidore Cohn, Jr,

Project Director, National Pancreatic Cancer Project, Louisiana State University Medical Center, 1542 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA.

Basel Liver Week

The Basel Liver Week will be held on 3-8 October 1979 with Dr Hans Popper as Honorary President. The International Liver Conference 'Virus and the Liver' (Falk Symposium No. 28) will be presided over by Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock. Details from Falk-Foundation e.V., Habsburgerstraße 81, D-7800 Freiburg i. Br., W-Germany.

Indian Society of Gastroenterology

The 20th Anniversary Conference of the Society will be held at the B J Medical College, Maharashtra State, India, on 12, 13 and 14 October 1979. Details may be obtained from Dr Manohar. J. Joshi, 1194/23 Ghole Road, Pune- 411 005, India.

Books

Prostaglandins and the Gut By Alan Bennett. (Pp. 69. £7.75.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1977.

The relationship between prostaglandins and 'prostaglandin-like' substances to the biological events which participate in the genesis of physiological and pathophysiological phenomena in the gastrointestinal tract represents a new and important area of research in gastroenterology, and has potentially therapeutic implications. This volume critically reviews original papers concerned with this subject which were cited in the *Index Medicus* during 1975. It is a well-organised book which contains a useful list of references, but has a somewhat limited index of subject matter referred to in the text. The role of prostaglandins in the pathophysiology of diarrhoeal states is perhaps not given the priority it deserves, but this does not detract from the value of the book as a whole. It provides an important source of material for interested research workers who will undoubtedly benefit from its contents. The reader, however, should be aware of the methodological problems of quantifying these substances and of the controversial publications which have appeared since this book was published.

JOHN HARRIES

Advances in Parenteral Nutrition Edited by Ivan D. A. Johnston. (Pp. 575. Illustrated. £18.95.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1978.

This book contains the edited proceedings of a symposium held in May 1977 and presents a well-balanced mixture of papers on parenteral nutrition. The first section deals with the metabolic foundations of the technique. The next four sections cover the use of carbohydrates, amino acids, fat emulsions, and trace elements. The section on fat emulsions is particularly interesting and the short section on trace elements provides some useful tentative recommended intravenous doses. The particular problems of intravenous feeding in paediatrics are presented next and are followed by an excellent section on the control of infection. Allen's review of the incidence of infection should be read by all who are practising parenteral nutrition. Biochemical aspects come next and here the emphasis is put on acid-base balance. There is also some data on insulin and calcium compatibilities in amino acid and glucose solutions. In the section on clinical aspects it is interesting to note the several descriptions of, and explanations for, the abnormal liver function tests seen during intravenous feeding. There is a good summary of the Houston group's work on parenteral nutritional support of cancer patients. The book ends strongly with a section on studies on body composition. Kinney's short chapter on surgical weight loss is intriguing and the data presented by Shizgal on the effects of protein-sparing therapy are especially worth noting.

The symposium must have been very good, and Professor Johnston has enabled a wider appreciation of it by editing this valuable book.

J. POWELL-TUCK

Correction

Jejunal lysozyme activity and the Paneth cell in coeliac disease by M. Ward, A. Ferguson, and M. A. Eastwood. *Gut*, 1979, 20, p. 57: the legend to Fig. 2 should read non-coeliac: ○, coeliac: ●.