

Notes and activities

British Postgraduate Medical Federation: Gastroenterology

An intensive course in advanced gastroenterology will be held in London from 12 November to 7 December 1979. Teaching and clinical sessions will be directed by J. J. Misiewicz; R. Hermon Dowling; Sheila Sherlock; V. S. Chadwick; A. M. Dawson; P. R. Hawley; P. B. Cotton. Fee £250. Apply to the Secretary to the Gastroenterology Course, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ (Tel: 01-931 6222, Extn: 11).

British Council: The Liver

This residential advanced course will be held in London and Bristol from 20 January to 1 February 1980. It is for senior medical practitioners from overseas who wish to become further acquainted with recent advances in this field. Apply to the British Council in your own country or to Director, Courses Department, British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1Y 2AA (Tel: 01-499 8011). Application by 1 September 1979.

XIV Argentine Congress of Gastroenterology

The XIV Argentine Congress of Gastroenterology will be held at the Centro Cultural General San Martin in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 7 to 11 October 1979. The I International Symposium of Digestive Computerised Tomography and the IV Symposium of Digestive Endoscopy (GEDRA) will take place at the same time. Details from Dr. Samuel Kohan, Apartado Especial No 7, 1000 Correo Central, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

14th Meeting of European Association for the Study of the Liver

This meeting will be held in Düsseldorf (West Germany), from 13 to 15 September 1979. Additional information may be obtained from Dr R. Teschke, Medizinische Klinik D, der Universität, Moorenstr. 5, D-4000 Düsseldorf, West Germany.

Acta Medica Portuguesa

Acta Medica Portuguesa is a new bi-monthly, costing £10 p.a., under the editorship of Dr. A. Galvões-Teles. It will publish original papers and reviews in Portuguese or in English, with summaries in the alternative language. The first issue contains four articles on gastroenterology. Correspondence to Pr. Dr. N. P. Torres, 17° - dto. 1500, Lisbon.

Books

A Pictorial Handbook of Anatomy and Physiology By James Bevan. (96 pp. Illustrated. £6.95). Mitchell Beazley Marketing: London. 1979.

This modestly priced pictorial handbook has 160 full colour illustrations. These together with the clear text provide an attractive and readable account of each of the main organs of the body.

The format brings the text, the pictures, and the glossary together in an imaginative way, making it very easy to study.

It should be ideal for all para-medical workers in gastroenterological departments.

F. AVERY-JONES

Physiology of the Gastro-Intestinal Lymphatic System By J. A. Barrowman (pp. 312. Illustrated. £17.50). Cambridge University Press: London. 1978.

This book is one of the series of monographs of the Physiological Society and it does much to focus attention on the often neglected lymphatic system. There are chapters on the anatomy, the composition and flow of lymph including production rate and control, the transport of water soluble materials, and a clear chapter on flow and composition of lymph in the liver. There is a short section on pathophysiological aspects of the gastrointestinal lymphatics including a fully referenced account of intestinal lymphangiectasia and of the effect on the lymphatic circulation of portal hypertension. Little information is available about disturbances of lymphatic drainage in most gastrointestinal diseases and this is reflected in the short coverage given to this section.

Not only is this monograph a useful source of reference, listing over 650

papers, but it is also easy to read through from cover to cover. It is strongly recommended for research workers engaged in studies of intestinal absorption and secretion and in hepatology. It will be of interest to physiologists, gastroenterologists involved in any sort of research, and to others simply seeking knowledge and insight.

I can strongly commend it.

L. A. TURNBERG

A Colour Atlas of Liver Disease By Sheila Sherlock, and John A. Summerfield (pp. 272, Illustrated. £18.00). Wolfe Medical Publications: London. 1979.

This beautifully produced atlas of mainly colour photographs comprehensively describes the liver and its diseases. Most of the photographs are of high quality and illustrate their points. The accompanying text is clearly written but often leaves the uninitiated in the air - sometimes too brief, and occasionally inaccurate.

I naturally noticed a few peccadilloes. Thus, outside Europe, mushroom species other than *Amanita phalloides* cause liver damage, and the photograph of the mushroom looks suspiciously like the *False Deathcap*, though this would be a harmless error! And can haemorrhoids really be caused by portal hypertension? My chief worry is to whom these inevitably expensive atlases will be of value. Surely there are too many rarities for the clinical student, while, for instance, too many pictures of jaundiced patients in varying stages of illness for the postgraduate?

However, the pictures embody years of clinical experience that few will ever approach. It will perhaps be read especially in developing countries.

R. P. H. THOMPSON

Clinics in Gastroenterology: Endoscopy Edited by K. F. R. Schiller. (pp. 790. Illustrated. £8.25). W. B. Saunders: London, Philadelphia, Toronto. 1978.

This volume is well up to the standard of the others in the series. The 15 chapters deal with most of the aspects of gastrointestinal endoscopy apart from laparoscopy. The authors have kept to a strongly clinical path which is quite appropriate to the subject and have produced what will