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.

Fibreoptics and Endoscopy

The Hospital Physicians' Association is organising a one-day meeting on fibre-optics and endoscopy to be held in London on 8 November 1979. The programme and application forms are available from Mr. D. W. Field, Hospital Physicians' Association, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX.

Pancreatic Disease 1980, Leeds

A symposium on the investigation and management of pancreatic disease will be held at St. James's University Hospital, Leeds, UK, on 10–11 April 1980. Topics include isotope, ultrasound and CT scanning, ERCP, laparoscopy, function tests, amylase and trypsin measurements, the medical and surgical treatment of pancreatitis and carcinoma; transplantation. Speakers include: M. F. Bewick, Joan Braganza, E. Elias, J. T. Harries, C. Imrie, W. R. Lees, C. N. Mallinson, P. R. Salmon, J. E. Trapnell, K. G. Wormsley, and staff from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals. Details from: Dr C. J. Mitchell, Department of Medicine, St. James's University Hospital, Leeds LS9 7TF, England.

Second International Colonoscopy Congress

The Second International Congress on Colonoscopy and Diseases of the Large Bowel will be held 6–8 March 1980 in Bal Harbour, Florida. Write for details to John P. Christie, MD, 7330 SW 62nd Place-Suite 220, South Miami, Florida 33143, USA (Tel: (305) 667-7440).

First International Symposium: Biology of Exocrine Pancreatic Cell

This will be held at Toulouse, 7–9 May 1980, French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM). Information from Professor A. Ribet, Dr L. Pradayrol, and C. Susini, INSERM U 151, CHU Rangueil, 31054 Toulouse, CEDEX France.

Eighth International Cystic Fibrosis Congress

This Congress will be held in Toronto, Canada, 26–30 May 1980. Details may be obtained from Congress Secretariat, 8th International Congress on Cystic Fibrosis, 191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1P7.

Books

Intestinal Stomas By I. P. Todd. (Pp. 215. Illustrated, £8.50) William Heinemann: London. 1978.

This small, and—by today's standards—reasonably-priced book, is an up-to-date account of the methods available for the creation and care of intestinal stomas and for the management of stoma problems. All of the chapters are admirably concise, well-illustrated and full of the practical advice so useful in management of the stoma patient. No doubt this reflects careful editorship and Mr. Ian Todd is to be congratulated on this account and for assembling a team of surgeons and physicians capable of dealing so authoritatively with the problems posed by intestinal stomas. The book contains useful accounts of the newer developments including the Erlangen continent magnetic colostomy, the Kock continent ileostomy, and temporary loop ileostomy. A large section of the book is devoted to the wider implications of intestinal stoma formation with chapters on nursing care of the stoma patient, psychological and social aspects of life with an intestinal stoma, and problems associated with rehabilitation. All of these chapters are written by stomatherapists or nurses, and there is a contribution from the General Secretary of the Ileostomy Association. The book is a balanced, comprehensive, and readable account. It is recommended not only for those doctors concerned with stoma formation and care, but for all members

of the medical and allied professions dealing with stoma patients.

D. C. CARTER

Cimetidine Westminster Hospital Symposium 1978 Edited by C. Wastell and P. Lance. (Pp. 302. Illustrated, £12.00). Churchill-Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1979.

Although publication of the proceedings of a symposium in book form is often a disappointing exercise, this particular volume is certainly more successful than most. There is, of course, tremendous interest in all of the many new developments in the field of H² receptor antagonist drugs, and in view of their widespread use and efficacy there is great interest in the findings of all engaged in clinical trials and other methods of evaluation of cimetidine.

The proceedings of this symposium held at the Westminster Hospital in May 1978 have been expertly brought together and edited by Mr. Wastell and Dr. Lance, and the book is very readable either straight through or when used as a source of reference on a particular point. As is the custom with such published proceedings, the questions and answers in the open discussion following each paper have been published, and they are a most delightful reflection of the personalities of the participants, most of them well known for their contributions to investigative gastroenterology. These discussions from the floor of the meeting often serve to emphasise the most important questions remaining unanswered, and they are a useful stimulus to further studies.

Virtually all the topics of major clinical interest with respect to the use of this important drug are dealt with in this publication. Quite rightly, most space is devoted to duodenal and gastric ulcer, and the large and difficult topic of non-ulcer dyspepsia is also skilfully reviewed. Other topics include oesophageal reflux, upper gastrointestinal bleeding, gastritis and duodenitis, and other situations in which it might be beneficial to reduce gastric acid secretion, such as the prophylaxis against inhalation into the respiratory tree. Experimental studies on other possible mechanisms of action of cimetidine—for example, on blood flow—are also presented.

There will doubtless be other national and international symposia on this important drug and there is clearly a need for up to date, accurate reporting of recent assessment of its efficacy in a wide