

Notes and activities

BSG Spring Teaching Meeting in Digestive Endoscopy

The British Society of Gastroenterology are holding their Spring Teaching Meeting in Digestive Endoscopy in the new Education Centre at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, from 19 to 21 March 1981. The consecutive short teaching courses are designed for beginners, endoscopic assistants, and more experienced endoscopists interested in diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy. The topics covered will include desophagogastrroduodenoscopy with dilatation and intubation techniques, ERCP with sphincterotomy, and colonoscopy with polypectomy. The small faculty of experienced endoscopic teachers will demonstrate different approaches and personal techniques in detailed and televised teaching using large screen CCVT. Model teaching, films, slide-tapes, and a trade exhibition will be available and a gala dinner in Barts Great Hall. The meeting closes with small-group and meet-the-professor sessions at which practical points can be discussed. The local secretary is Dr Christopher B Williams and details can be obtained from the Postgraduate Secretary, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, West Smithfield, London EC1.

6th Hepatic Update, Royal Free Hospital, London

This will take place on 16–18 July 1981. Speakers include: J-P Benhamou (Paris), P D Berk (New York), J Bircher (Berne), I A D Bouchier (Dundee), R Calne (Cambridge), N Greenberger (Kansas), H Popper (New York), F Schaffner (New York), E Schiff (Miami), R Williams (London), A J Zuckerman (London), and Medical Unit, Royal Free Hospital. Topics include: alcohol, aminoacids, collagen, gallstones, Le Veen shunt, Non-A non-B hepatitis, portal hypertension, case discussions, and slide seminar. Information from Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock, Royal Free Hospital, London, NW3 2QG.

Radiology of the Small Intestine

A one day course will be held on 17 June 1981 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Particular emphasis will be placed on duodenal intubation barium techniques. It is intended for consultants,

senior registrars, registrars, and research workers in radiology and gastroenterology. Registration fee £21.00. For details contact Dr D J Nolan, Department of Radiology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU. Telephone (0865) 817238.

Books

Inflammatory Disease of the Bowel

Edited by B N Brooke and A W Wilkinson (Pp. 244. Illustrated. £20.00.) Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 1980.

This volume assembles the papers that were read at a meeting held at the International School of Medical Sciences. The subject was inflammatory disease of the bowel interpreted in the widest sense and the book therefore ranges over a varied number of inflammatory conditions. Much of the book inevitably covers aspects of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease—genetics, aetiology, immunology, medical and surgical management, differential diagnosis. In addition there are chapters on neonatal enterocolitis, solitary ulcer of the rectum, and an excellent chapter on Yersinia infections which I particularly enjoyed reading. The irritable bowel syndrome also finds a place, presumably on the basis of the frequent difficulty in differential diagnosis.

The major criticism of this volume is its unevenness, both in its selection of topics and in the depth of each individual contribution. It is perhaps surprising that the major infective disorders receive little attention and that pseudomembranous colitis is so summarily considered.

I suspect that this was a highly successful symposium for the participants, with some excellent reviews—for example, the contributions on immunology, the pharmacological rationalisation of steroid therapy in ulcerative colitis, and the 'molecular' properties of putative infective agents in Crohn's disease—and some wide-ranging discussion. As a book, it has less to offer. Nevertheless, it contains a great deal of useful information and I am pleased to have it on my shelf.

D P JEWELL

Abdominal Ultrasound: Static and Dynamic Scanning 2nd Edition. By H H Holm, J K Kristensen, S N Rasmussen, J F Pedersen, S Hancke, F Jensen, J Gammelgaard, and E H Smith. (Pp. 274. Illus-

trated. Dkr300.00.) University Park Press: Baltimore. 1980.

The first edition of Professor Holm's book was illustrated almost exclusively with bi-stable images. The images in the second edition are almost entirely grey scale, though unfortunately their quality is very disappointing. Many of the reproductions do not demonstrate the low level echo information, several are too small, and a surprising number are photographically blurred. The text which accompanies the clinical images is, however, quite useful and there are especially useful sections at the beginning of each chapter on the scanning technique applicable to individual organs or systems.

The most valuable chapter of this book is undoubtedly chapter 5 covering the sectional anatomy. Included in this 20-page chapter are colour reproductions of both longitudinal and transverse cadaver sections in which all the major structures have been labelled. There are also black and white reproductions of sections with corresponding ultrasonograms which will be immensely valuable to those operators who have difficulty in identifying anatomical structures in their ultrasound images.

This book will be of limited value to those well experienced in abdominal ultrasound but, in view of its excellent coverage of anatomy and scanning technique, it can be strongly recommended to those approaching the subject for the first time.

HYLTON B MEIRE