Notes and activities

Malignant Lymphoma in Coeliac Disease

Individuals with coeliac disease appear to have an increased risk of developing malignant lymphoma and other tumours. Studies of such individuals should provide information about the mechanisms involved in the development of malignancy, but the number of cases occurring in any one medical centre is small. With the active help and co-operation of many gastroenterologists and pathologists throughout Britain a national register of cases of coeliac disease associated with malignancy has been set up at the Clinical Research Centre, Harrow. As a result a substantial number of case records and pathological material are currently being studied, but reports of any additional cases that are known to have occurred would be welcome, as would reports of any cases that occur in future. From future patients with coeliac disease and malignant lymphoma it is particularly desired to obtain fresh tumour tissue for study. For further information or to report cases please contact Dr Christine Swinson, Clinical Research Centre, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ. Telephone 01-864 5311.

Professor R A Gregory, CBE, FRS

We are delighted to report that Professor Gregory has been awarded the Antonio Feltrinelli prize by the Italian Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. This distinguished award is made once every five years. We offer Professor Gregory our congratulations.

Symposium on Pathogenesis and Therapy of Ulcer Disease

This symposium will be held in Munich, 13-14 March 1980. It will review established knowledge and recent advances on basic and clinical aspects of ulcer disease. The programme will consist of lectures by invited speakers and round table discussions. For further information and registration forms please contact the Congress office: Ruth Freifrau von Thüna, Edu-Med-Communications, Siesmayerstrasse 15, D 6000 Frankfurt 1, FRG, Tel: 0611/743361.

Influence of Nutrition upon Naval and Maritime History

A medical and historical symposium is being organised by the National Maritime Museum with the assistance of the Wellcome Institute for the History of

Medicine, from 16-18 April 1980 at Greenwich. Details from Ursula Stuart Mason, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10. Tel 01-858 4422 ext 286.

EORTC Symposium on Progress and Perspectives in the Treatment of Gastrointestinal Tumours

This symposium will be held in Brussels, 22-23 May 1980. Invited lectures and free communications will be presented. Abstracts of free communications (in English, 250-300 words) should be submitted before 30 March 1980 and addressed to the Executive Secretary: Miss D Eeckhoudt, EORTC Data Center, Institut Jules Bordet, 1 rue Héger-Bordet, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. Phone: 538.57.90. Telex: 22773.

Books

Clinics in endocrinology and metabolism (Vol. 8. No. 2) **Gastrointestinal hormones** Edited by K. Buchanan. (Pp. 449. Illustrated. £8.25). W. B. Saunders: Eastbourne, 1979.

In 200 pages the latest of this useful series provides an excellent and much needed update on gastrointestinal hormones. The contributors and the guest editor, Dr Buchanan, guide us through the gut hormone 'klondyke', as he terms it, helping us to identify and avoid many of the pitfalls.

The integrated approach to the first five chapters on general concepts, methodology, and the link between gut hormones and the nervous system make them a delight to read as the story of the neuropeptides in gut and brain is unfolded. The subsequent chapters on metabolic and gastrointestinal disease along with those on the individual hormones, GIP, pancreatic polypeptides, motilin, and neurotensin are a somewhat harder read but packed with information. Finally, there are two clinical chapters on gut endocrine tumours.

A book such as this can be required to act as a review, introductory text, or a source of reference depending on the reader. This volume's success as all three reflects the skill with which the chapters were selected, organised, and written. I have two minor criticisms in that the immunocytochemical illustrations were not done full justice in reproduction and could have been omitted, and that the actions of neuropeptides on the pituitary were dealt with rather scantily. For those

engaged in research, however, this book will undoubtedly prove a valuable and readily readable source of reference, and, while many of the topics are not yet of direct bed-side relevance, read selectively, there is also much of interest for the clinician.

Although declaring myself as an unrepentant endocrinologist, gastroenterologists should not be deterred from reading about this fascinating interface of our respective disciplines in a 'Clinics in endocrinology'. Certainly, Dr Buchanan—identified by his photograph on the first page, as is the custom of the series—need have no fear of recognition by readers of this impressive book.

W A STUBBS

Atlas of liver biopsies By Hemming Poulsen and Per Christoffersen. (Pp. 239. Illustrated. Dkr 350.10. Munksgaard: Copenhagen, 1979.

Do not be misled by the title into thinking 'this is yet another goddam atlas'. Its original layout makes it a reference of hepatic morphological signs that should be the constant companion of surgical pathologists and also clinicians who have to wrestle with the language of liver biopsy. In a unique fashion, with an even split between text and microphotographs, it presents a detailed account of the histological bricks on which the final morphological diagnoses are made.

The book is in three parts but the second part forms its bulk. Here one histological pattern is dealt with per set of pages. The left-hand side is a page of text (including references) with a paragraph order that is standard throughout. First a description of, say, piecemeal necrosis, then hints on its recognition followed by the differential diagnosis, and a final paragraph on the clinical importance of the particular feature. On the right-hand page are placed two good quality colour photomicrographs so there is no continual flicking over pages to find the relevant figures. Over 60 patterns are described in this way, dealing with the changes in each microanatomical region in turn—for example, portal tracts, central veins, sinusoids, liver cells, etc. The feature in question is printed in bold capitals in the top left corner of the page thus allowing the book to be used very much like a dictionary. In the relatively short third section all the individual pieces of the jig-saw are combined to present accounts of the major diseases. Thus the book ends where others usually begin.

Any criticism is minor and is aimed at the style of English—for example, 'small magnification of a liver', spelling—'primary biliary cirrhosis', or at the absence of bold type in the index to indicate the major text reference. Perhaps the authors are carried away by their approach and indulge in sign-splitting. Thus eight patterns of fibrosis and 11 types of liver cell necrosis are described. However, all pretenders to the kingdom of hepatopathology should be aware of this book which is a welcome breath of fresh air among the current fug of atlases.

ASHLEY B PRICE

Clinics in gastroenterology: Postsurgical syndromes Edited by A. L. Bloom and J. R. Siewert. (Pp. 547. Illustrated. £8.25.) W. B. Saunders: London, 1979.

This is a practical and imaginative edition of *Clinics in gastroenterology* that bears a strong editorial stamp of authority. The guest editors have managed to persuade a number of eminent contributors to tackle the heterogeneous subject of post-surgical syndromes in a logical and orderly way. The resulting edition is scholarly and each chapter will be used, deservedly, as a standard work of reference.

The very scholarly nature of the contributions is sometimes a weakness when one tries to use the book as a guide to the assessment and management of a specific post-surgical problem. The emphasis of the book is so much on analyses and classification that often there does not seem to be enough room for advice on management. The editors set the pattern in their chapter on the oesophagus. They produce a brilliant and logical classification of the post-surgical disorders with five ingenious flow charts. It is, however, rather difficult to extract from the chapter practical advice about management.

At first sight, it might seem that there might be tedious repetition when three authors in successive chapters consider malnutrition, dumping, and anaemia after operations on the stomach. However, all the accounts bear reading and are complementary.

An authoritative chapter written from Hamburg on papillotomy and bilio-cigestive anastomosis is both logically precise and of great value. It is worth buying the book for this chapter alone. In another excellent chapter on post-cholecystectomy problems written from Basel with great authority, the authors conclude with very strong advice to all aspiring cholecystectomists: during the

operation all surgeons should perform pressure controlled cholangiography, pressure and flow measurements and the CCK test. This advice is clearly impractical for most surgeons throughout the world because of lack of facilities: furthermore, neither the authors nor anyone else has shown conclusively that, after such an elaborate regime, the incidence of post-cholecystectomy syndromes is significantly less than if none of these procedures was used.

A ALEXANDER-WILLIAMS

Ulcus-therapie Edited by A. L. Blum and J. R. Siewert. (Pp. 409. Illustrated. \$19.-80.) Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1978.

This is the first book, published in German, in a series entitled *Interdisciplinary gastroenterology*. Its origins, according to a note on the flyleaf, lie in a sponsored workshop. The book is edited jointly by a physician and a surgeon, and there are 32 contributors, mainly drawn from Austria, West Germany, and Switzerland. The editors believe that peptic ulceration is an ideal subject for an interdisciplinary approach, more particularly as there are relatively few clear-cut indications for either medical or surgical treatment. The book is divided into three parts. The first concentrates on definitions, epidemiological observations, and pathological considerations, while the second part concerns itself with therapeutic principles. In the third major section the clinical application of these principles—that is, therapeutic indications—are discussed.

The concepts on which the book is based are unassailable, and the contributors have been successful in achieving the aims set by the editors. Every contribution fits well into the pattern. The emphasis is on facts throughout, and there are comprehensive lists of references. Particular stress is laid on controlled trials. The conclusions are well balanced and carefully argued. The volume comes in the form of a small book with soft covers. The layout is pleasing to the eye, with clear print and good diagrams. There is an enormous amount of information in these 400 small pages.

Every section is itself excellent value, but the book is not easy to read as a whole as the style is strikingly different from what one normally expects to find in an English or American book on a medical subject. This matters little. Despite the publisher's blurb, it is not a book that

can be recommended as offering valuable help in general practice. It is, however, a mine of well-ordered information for physicians and surgeons with a major interest in peptic ulcer disease, and contains in addition much useful practical advice. An English-language version would be welcome.

K SCHILLER

Scientific basis of gastroenterology Edited by H L Duthie and K G Wormsley. (Pp. 498. Illustrated. £17.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh.

The past few decades have seen tremendous activity in the application of scientific methods to the study of the alimentary tract and the liver. These researches have often been guided as much by advances in technology as by the need to solve urgent clinical problems. Consequently there is often a certain dislocation between the 'scientific basis' and clinical gastroenterology. This is perhaps particularly exemplified by the isolation of new gastrointestinal hormones 'searching' for a role in health and disease, and, on the other hand, by our lack of understanding of the aetiology of any of the major gastrointestinal diseases in the face of rapid developments in alimentary physiology.

Professor Duthie and Dr Wormsley have assembled experts from Australia, Belgium, Poland, and the USA as well as Britain to write a series of 19 impressive essays. Gastrointestinal and vascular physiologists, biochemists, endocrinologists, an immunologist, a cytologist, physicians, and surgeons have written chapters varying from discussions of basic functions in which research methodology has been critically reviewed to the use of physiological tests for clinical assessment. The book is well illustrated and indexed, and the editors have kept overlap of subject matter to a minimum. Some of the chapters, such as the first on cell population kinetics, are masterly reviews of methodology which will help the reader to understand the literature and evaluate it critically. With one or two chapters, one inevitably has the feeling of seeing an attempted still-shot of a rapidly moving subject.

After an initial section entitled 'Basic principles' there follows one on 'Secretion', which does not cover the small intestine. This is dealt with under 'Absorption' where the simultaneous processes of secretion, digestion, and absorption are covered together. The book ends with