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Gut publishes original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in the field of gastroenterology. The field is that of alimentary, hepatic, or pancreatic disease, and papers may cover the medical, surgical, radiological, or historical aspects. They may also deal with the basic sciences concerned with the alimentary tract, including experimental work. The report of a single case will be accepted only if it is of sufficient interest in relation to a wider field of research.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of papers and figures should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR. Papers are accepted only on the understanding that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee. Manuscripts should follow the Vancouver conventions (see *Br Med J* 1979; 1: 532-5. *Gut* 1979; 20: 651-2). They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On the paper the name of the author should appear with initials (or distinguishing Christian name) only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. A short summary should be provided at the beginning of the paper.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or international reply coupon is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. *Diagrams* These will usually be reduced to 2½ in wide. Lettering should be in either Letraset or stencil, and care should be taken that lettering and symbols are of comparable size. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text, they should be marked on the back with Figure numbers, title of paper, and name of author. All photographs, graphs, and diagrams should be referred to as Figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet. *Tables* Tables should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals and each typed on a separate sheet.

ETHICS Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *Br Med J* 1964; 2: 177).

SI UNITS All measurements except blood pressure are expressed in SI units. In the text they should be followed by traditional units in parentheses. In tables and illustrations values are given only in SI units, but a conversion factor must be supplied. For general guidance on the International System of Units, and some useful conver-

sion factors, see *The SI for the Health Professions* (WHO, 1977). Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

REFERENCES These follow the Vancouver system—that is, references numbered consecutively in the text and listed numerically with titles abbreviated in the style of *Index Medicus. Standard journal article*—(list all authors when six or less; when seven or more, list first three and add *et al.*): James A, Joyce B, Harvey T. Effect of long-term cimetidine. *Gut* 1979; 20: 123-4. NB: Accurate punctuation is essential.

CORRECTIONS other than printer's errors may be charged to the author.

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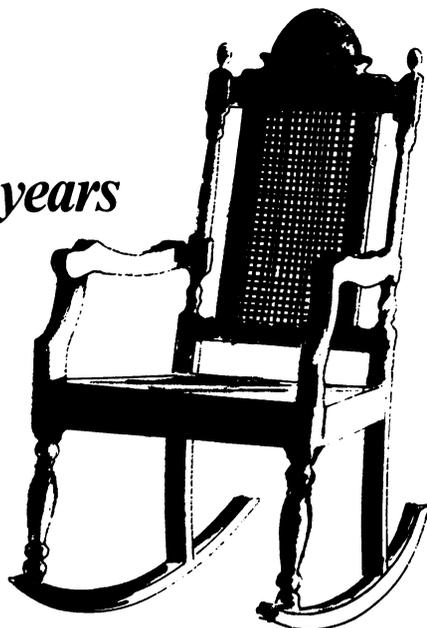
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Notes and activities

Printing delays

We regret the recent delay in the publication of *Gut* because of industrial action, and hope to return to normal schedules in the near future.

BSG Basic Science Group

The Inaugural meeting of the Basic Science Group of the BSG will be a symposium on: 'Nerves and the Gut' to be held on 24 September 1980 at the University of Reading as part of the Annual Meeting of the BSG. Details from Dr D L Wingate, London Hospital, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BB.

Drug Reactions and the Liver:

Mechanisms and Measures for Control

This International Symposium will be held at The Royal Society, London, 3-4 July 1980, and is organised by The Liver Unit, King's College Hospital and Medical School, London. The Symposium will include invited speakers from Europe and North America and will cover clinical, biochemical, and immunological aspects of drug-associated liver injury. Further information about the scientific programme can be obtained from Dr Roger Williams and Dr Michael Davis. Correspondence should be addressed to Advisory Services Medical Symposia Ltd, 79 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DD.

15th Meeting of European Association for the Study of the Liver

This will be held at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 4-6 September 1980. Details from the Secretary, Helmer Ring-Larsen, Division of Hepatology, Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen, DK-2650 Copenhagen, Denmark.

18th Annual Meeting: Society of Nuclear Medicine

This meeting will take place in September 1980 in Erlangen/Nürnberg. The main theme will be 'Nuclear Medicine with its Interdependencies' with special reference to cardiology and hepato-gastroenterology. Details from Prof Dr F Wolf, Institut für Nuklearmedizin, Krankenhausstraße 12, D-8520 Erlangen, Germany.

International Symposium on Islet-Pancreas-Transplantation and Artificial Pancreas

This satellite symposium to the 16th Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Congress will be held from 22-23 September 1980 in Athens, Greece. Details from: Professor S Raptis, PO Box 3127, Athens 606, Greece.

3rd International Symposium on Neonatal Diarrhoea

This symposium will be held on 6-8 October 1980. Details from Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), 124 Veterinary Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada 27N 0W0.

Books

Liver and Biliary Disease Edited by Ralph Wright, K G M M Alberti, S Karran, and G H Millward-Sadler. (Pp. 1345. Illustrated. £38.50.) W B Saunders: Eastbourne. 1979.

This new textbook of liver and biliary disease has been edited by four past or present members of the Medical School at Southampton—a physician, a biochemist, a surgeon, and a pathologist. All are actively involved in clinical practice and research in hepatology. The book aims to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of liver and biliary disease and the editors have chosen a wide range of contributors who are all authorities in their own fields. The individual chapters are for the most part well written, easily assimilated, and informative. The initial 16 chapters cover various pathophysiological aspects and the remaining 40 deal with diagnosis and management. This organisation, although logical, in that sound management depends upon clear understanding of pathophysiology, is not entirely successful. Some of the earlier chapters contain clinical material which is repeated in more detail in a later chapter. My feeling is that many of the authors of these earlier sections recognised the desire to integrate the pathophysiological with the clinical information and in many instances this would have

been more successfully achieved by allowing the authors of the clinical sections to cover more of the pathophysiology. An excellent sample of such an integrated chapter is that on acute viral hepatitis. This is clearly written with the authority of an excellent physician and his experienced pathologist who are, in addition, in the forefront of advances in the virology and immunopathology of hepatitis.

This criticism about organisation does not, however, detract from the overall value of the book. It offers a great deal of up-to-date information in this rapidly developing area and, in comparison with some of the very expensive volumes available, is good value for money.

A L W F EDDLESTON

Gastro-intestinal Pathology. By B C Morson and I M P Dawson. (Pp 805. Illustrated, £32.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne. 1979.

It is a pleasure to read and browse through this new edition to Morson and Dawson, which is conveniently divided into sections representing disease entities in different parts of the gastrointestinal system. The text is lucid, incorporating clinical, pathological, histochemical, and hormonal features and this second edition is well up to date. There are very few omissions and rare reservations about emphasis. Endoscopists are familiar with duodenal erosions which also feature in biopsy reports and histologists occasionally encounter granulomata in colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, and diverticular disease in the absence of Crohn's disease. There is an excellent discussion of biopsy diagnosis in inflammatory bowel disease, including ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, pseudomembranous colitis, and infective colitis, but the difficulties in distinction from ischaemic colitis are not emphasised in the differential diagnosis, although the histological features of ischaemic lesion of the colon are discussed in a subsequent chapter. There is no reference to starch granulomatosis and, although steroids and aspirin are referred to briefly in the aetiology of peptic ulcer, there is no mention of indomethacin and phenylbutazone or other antirheumatic drugs.

The cautious review of gastrointestinal cytology is a welcome addition to this book and a stimulus for the cytologist.

Perhaps the next edition will include an assessment of computerised image-analysis if it makes sufficient impact in this field. The bibliography is superb, but selective on certain topics, and the illustrations are of high quality throughout. There is a minor dislocation of references 194 and 195 in the valuable description of Crohn's disease of the small intestine.

Clearly this is a compact, informative volume which should be on the bookshelves of every pathologist, physician, surgeon, and radiologist who investigates gastrointestinal disease.

H THOMPSON

The Irritable Gut By W Grant Thompson. (Pp 275. Illustrated. £11.95.) University Park Press: Lancaster and Baltimore, Maryland. 1979.

Functional disorders of the alimentary canal—the subtitle of this book—are responsible for much of the work of any gastroenterological clinic. As most of the conditions have little that can be objectively demonstrated or measured it is not surprising that the literature on them has been proportionately less than that on other, more defined diseases. Professor Thompson's most readable book goes a considerable way to meet this deficiency.

In the first section he selectively discusses aspects of gut motility, bowel habit, gut reaction, and dietary fibre as a physiological background to the main part of the book in which he looks at various syndromes in detail. The irritable bowel, proctalgia fugax, borborygmi, the chronic abdomen, and globus are among 11 conditions in which mechanisms in their production, their manifestations, and management are considered. Just over 800 references are quoted, resulting in an excellent review of previous work and opinions.

With rapidly advancing knowledge of gut hormones and to a lesser extent gut motility Professor Thompson recognises that some conditions now thought to be functional will turn out to be organic. However, as one man's review and opinion of the position up to 1978, this book is well worth reading and enjoying. It can be recommended to any doctor wishing to increase his knowledge of the irritable gut and the advice and management of the various conditions is always sound. Even experienced gastroenterologists will find much to interest, and at times amuse them.

J HOWEL JONES

Ulcerative Colitis By M J Goodman and M Sparberg. (Pp. 205. Illustrated. £13.50.) John Wiley: Chichester. 1978.

Drs Goodman and Sparberg have collated their experience of ulcerative colitis gained in Oxford and Chicago by writing this monograph. It is intended for the general interest rather than the specialist gastroenterologist and, in the authors' words, to be 'a handbook for the management of patients with this disease'. All aspects of the disease are covered, including chapters on the management of children and of pregnant women with ulcerative colitis. Clinical presentation, diagnosis, and treatment are covered at length. The chapter on aetiology is disappointingly brief, especially in a book from a series which purports to provide an up-to-date account of pathophysiology as well as management. In general the authors provide a clear and practical approach to the management of the disease, although not all gastroenterologists will necessarily agree with them at every point. For example, the place of antibiotics in the treatment of severe colitis and the role of sulphonamides other than sulphasalazine are particularly controversial.

Although the text is written in a clear style, I found it to be rather long-winded and there is much repetition. A major criticism is the lack of references. Although the authors intend to provide only a selected reference list, it does severely limit the usefulness of the book as a monograph and occasionally allows dogmatic statements to be made without adequate documentation. Nevertheless, the book succeeds in its aim and the non-specialist will find it a helpful source of information.

The book is beautifully produced and is reasonably priced. I would recommend it to anyone who wishes to gain an introduction to the management of ulcerative colitis.

D P JEWELL

The Liver and Biliary System in Infants and Children Edited by R. K. Chandra. (Pp. 341. Illustrated. £20.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, London, and New York. 1979.

Knowledge and experience of liver disorders in childhood has been accumulating so rapidly that there has been an indisputable need for a comprehensive volume bringing them into the paediatric ambit. This book represents an authoritative account by an international group

of contributors and provides a compact and informative introduction to hepatobiliary disorders in childhood. Not only are the practical problems of diagnosis and management discussed, but also controversial areas and research developments are placed in perspective for the non-specialist reader. At the end of each chapter there is a useful and comprehensive bibliography.

The early chapters are devoted to normal and pathological structure and function of the liver in childhood. Conceptually some of these early chapters are muddled and the choice of material idiosyncratic. The account of bile salt metabolism is excellent, yet, curiously, the remainder of this chapter is sketchy and provides the reader with little indication of the concepts of perhaps more important aspects of liver metabolism. Morphological changes are covered comprehensively though somewhat erratically and it is unfortunate that this otherwise valuable contribution is spoilt by the rather cramped illustrations.

The clinically orientated chapters contain much useful information. In particular, the chapter on fulminant liver failure is a helpful and up-to-date guide to 'the state of the art', and the section on drugs and the liver should prove of value to both those with a special interest in liver disorders and the general paediatrician. Surgery of the liver and bile ducts is dealt with at the end of the book and includes a perspective of the place of transplantation in childhood.

Overall, the book should prove useful to trainees and general paediatricians. In spite of its shortcomings in some areas, many gastroenterologists in the paediatric field will find themselves referring to it.

P. J. MILLA

Books received

Chemical Diagnosis of Disease Edited by Stanley S Brown, Frederick L Mitchell and Donald S Young. (Pp. 1383; illustrated; \$74.75) Elsevier/North-Holland: Amsterdam. 1980.

Renal Function in Anaesthesia and Surgery By D R Bevan (Pp. 239; illustrated; £15.20) Academic Press: London. 1980.

Correction

Figure 1, p. 50, January 1980: Prednisolone absorption in acute colitis, by P R Elliott *et al.* The units on the vertical axis indicating levels of free prednisolone should read 0, 20, 40, 60, 80 ng/ml and not 0, 100, 200, 300, 400 as published.