Notes and activities

BSG and DE Spring Meeting, 1980
This year the Spring Meeting of the BSG (President, Dr B C Morson) and Digestive Endoscopy (Vice-President, Dr P B Cotton) was held jointly with the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (President, Professor G W Taylor) in Bournemouth on 26 to 28 March. Numerous scientific sessions and social functions contributed to the success of the meeting, which enhanced the existing close contact between the medical and the surgical aspects of gastroenterology. The Surgikos Lecture was given by Professor R Y Calne on 'Current status of transplant surgery'. Dr Anne Ferguson delivered the BSG Research Medal Lecture on 'Relationship between intestinal lymphocytes and malabsorption'. Teaching half-day was devoted to nutrition and there were splinter groups, workshops, and symposia on endoscopy, pathology, hepatology, radiology, Crohn's disease, GI haemorrhage, and other topics. Abstracts of papers presented to BSG and DE are printed on p. A443.

BSG Spring Meeting, 1981
The British Society of Gastroenterology Spring Meeting will take place in Bristol on 8 to 10 April 1981, under the Presidency of Professor A E Read. The local Organising Secretary is Dr K Heaton, Department of Medicine, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol BF2 8HW. Tel 22041. Further details will be circulated later.

New journal: Liver
We welcome the publication of a new international journal, Liver, the aim of which is to promote and maintain contact between basic and clinically applied liver morphology. The editors are Hemming Poulsen and Per Christoffersen, Copenhagen, while the editorial board includes Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock, A Eddleston, and P J Scheuer. The journal will be published quarterly from January 1981 and will be in English. Full details of subscription rates may be obtained from the publishers, Munksgaard Ltd, 35 Nørre Søgade, DK-1370 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

New Journal: Tropical Gastroenterology
Tropical Gastroenterology is a new journal intended for doctors in tropical countries and will concentrate on review articles. The editor is B N Tandon, All India Institute of Medical Services, New Delhi, and the journal will be issued quarterly at Rs25/ for four issues. Inquiries should be addressed to Tropical Gastroenterology C1/18, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110016.

Indian Society of Gastroenterology
The 21st Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology will be held in Calcutta on 30 and 31 October and 1 November 1980. Further information may be obtained from The Organising Secretary, 21st Annual Conference ISG, Kothari Centre of Gastroenterology, CMRI, 7/2 Diamond Harbour Road, Calcutta-27, India.

Gastroenterological Society of Australia
A meeting on 'Gastroenterology in the 1980s' will be held at the Club Méditerranée, Noumea, from 24–31 October 1980. Details from Associate Professor T D Bolin, Honorary Secretary, Gastroenterological Society of Australia, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia.

Books

This is a multi-author book to which 21 doctors from nine different countries, each eminent in their particular field, have contributed. There is no doubt as to the knowledge and experience of the team, most of whom are internationally known; a reviewer's task must be to assess whether the content of the book as a whole is of value to practising pathologists and whether individual contributions are readily understandable, clearly illustrated, and well referenced.

The answer to the first question is an unequivocal 'yes'. All of the expected liver disorders are covered, there are useful introductory chapters on the normal embryology, microanatomy and pathology of the liver, and a number of useful additional facets often difficult to find in standard texts; particularly helpful is Professor MacSween's chapter on the changes found in the liver in association with primary disease in other organs.

The standard of individual contributions is also high; none deserves more than minor criticism and it would be invidious to praise any in particular; I can only write that I particularly enjoyed those where my chief interest lies and of which I would have expected to be most critical. The illustrations are in general good and clear and illustrate the points which the authors wish to make, and the references are well up to date. The book is well produced and the price, for these days, is reasonable. It should be in every histopathology laboratory as a working textbook and I recommend it without reservation.

IAN DAWSON

Development of Mammalian Absorptive Processes

This publication records the proceedings of a Ciba Foundation Symposium held in London in January 1979. Gastroenterologists interested in the problems and challenges of intestinal absorption have become more concerned in recent years with the development of the processes of intestinal digestion and absorption; this Symposium and the subsequent publication has brought together workers in experimental and clinical fields who are actively involved in the subject. The result is a valuable and fascinating series of papers covering the development of all aspects of digestive and absorptive mechanisms. The subjects covered include sections on morphology, brush border and cellular enzymes, bile acids, fat, carbohydrate, protein and trace element absorption, and immune mechanisms. Each chapter has an up-to-date bibliography and the discussion sections at the end of each chapter are faithfully reproduced. One impressive feature is the addition of relevant references to the discussion sections at the end of each chapter. An interesting general discussion section at the end of the volume covers possible future developments in morphology, hormones, immunity, and other aspects of nutritional development.

Although much of the data presented in the volume are experimental in nature,