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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.**

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# THE 1981 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VIRAL HEPATITIS

Presented by

**New York University Post-Graduate Medical School**

Sponsored by

**National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**

**National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute**

**Center for Disease Control**

**Bureau of Biologics, FDA**

**The New York Blood Center**

**March 30 to April 2, 1981**

**Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City**

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** Wolf Szmunes, Chairman, *New York*, Harvey J. Alter, *Bethesda*, Lewellys F. Barker, *Washington, D.C.*, Friedrich Deinhardt, *Munich*, Robert J. Gerety, *Bethesda*, James E. Maynard, *Phoenix*, Robert W. McCollum, *New Haven*, Toshitsugu Oda, *Tokyo*, Robert H. Purcell, *Bethesda*, Arie J. Zuckerman, *London*.

## • SYMPOSIUM DESCRIPTION •

Viral hepatitis, types A, B, and what is tentatively designated as non-A non-B (NANB), are among the last unconquered, but widely prevalent human infections. Hundreds of millions of people, both children and adults, are persistent carriers of hepatitis B and NANB viruses. These agents are responsible for a large proportion of chronic active hepatitis and cirrhosis; strong evidence indicates that the hepatitis B virus is etiologically associated with hepatocellular carcinoma, one of the main killers of young men in vast areas of the world.

Hepatitis experts from throughout the world will participate in this Symposium to provide an in-depth, basic and clinical summation on the etiology, immunology, pathology, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of all three forms of viral hepatitis. Cloning of antigens and development of new types of vaccines against hepatitis A and B will be discussed. The results of ongoing large-scale studies on the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy of hepatitis B vaccines will be presented for the first time. New data on the natural history and detection of NANB hepatitis will be reviewed.

## • PROGRAM TOPICS •

Further Characteristics of Hepatitis A and B Viruses,  
Including HBsAg Cloning  
Epidemiology and Diagnosis  
Pathogenesis and Chronic Sequella; Hepatocellular  
Carcinoma

Non-A and Non-B Hepatitis  
Active and Passive Immunization in Hepatitis A and B  
Treatment and Clinical Management  
Controversies in Viral Hepatitis

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## Notes and activities

### BSG Research Award 1980

Five hundred word summaries of personal research work are invited by the Research Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the award for 1980. The award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less (on 31 December 1980) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting in 1981. Applications (six copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ, no later than 1 November 1980.

### Hurst Memorial Fund

A special Sir Arthur Hurst Memorial Fund was inaugurated by the British Digestive Foundation at the meeting celebrating the centenary of his birth, held in July 1979 at the Royal College of Physicians. The Fund has now been closed and Dr Thomas Hunt, Chairman of the British Digestive Foundation, has suggested that a suitable memorial to Sir Arthur would be to use the income from the Fund for international contact between research workers. Sir Arthur Hurst was an enthusiastic medical traveller and the BDF will support in the name of Sir Arthur Hurst visits abroad by British research workers to further their own work by discussions with other researchers, or by learning new techniques. The money will be used particularly to support working visits and the award will be known as the Hurst Research Travel Grant. Details are given below.

### British Digestive Foundation

British Digestive Foundation for research into the prevention and treatment of alimentary and liver disorders, is now offering the W E C Knott Fellowship for research in gastroenterology. It will be awarded for research into the aetiology, prevention, and treatment of disorders of the digestive tract and liver. The Fellowship will be given to an applicant of senior registrar or equivalent status in the United Kingdom, and the salary will be commensurate with the applicant's salary

at the time of appointment. The award for fulltime research will be granted for one year, extendable for a further year. The closing date is 5 September 1980, and the successful applicant will be expected to take up the Fellowship in October 1980.

The Foundation also invites applications for a Research Travel Grant. This Grant will be awarded to enable trainees in gastroenterology to travel abroad, particularly in Europe, for educational and scientific purposes. The Grant, funded by the Sir Arthur Hurst Memorial Fund, may be used for travel and subsistence for educational purposes in gastroenterology. The closing date for applications, which should give full details of the applicant and of the proposed trip, is 5 September 1980. The successful applicant would be expected to take up the travel grant during the academic year 1980-81.

Application forms for the Fellowship may be obtained from The Secretary, British Digestive Foundation, Room D, 7 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London W1A 2LN, and application for the Hurst Research Travel Grant should also be made to this address.

### New Journal: *Regulatory Peptides*

A new journal, *Regulatory Peptides*, has been launched under the editorship of Stephen R Bloom, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, and Floyd E Bloom, The Salk Institute, San Diego. Its aim is to provide a medium for the prompt publication of interdisciplinary studies on the physiology and pathology of peptides of the gut, endocrine and nervous systems which regulate cell or tissue function. Details of this bi-monthly journal may be obtained from the publishers, Elsevier/North-Holland Biomedical Press, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### International Congress of Colo-Proctology

This International Congress will be held, in association with the 7th Meeting of the Association Européenne et Méditerranéenne de Colo-Proctologie, at Prague and Karlovy Vary, Carlsbad, 11-13 May 1981. The programme will cover precancerous conditions of the rectum and colon and new methods in colo-proctology. Details may be obtained from Professor Z Mařatka, Congress of Colo-Proctology, Vítězného února 31, 120-26 Praha 2, Czechoslovakia. Phone 294141. Telex 121-293.

### International Symposium on the Brain-Gut Axis

An international symposium on the brain-gut axis will be held in Florence, Italy, from 29 June to 1 July 1981, in honour of Professor V Erspamer. The theme will be the regulatory peptides found in both the brain and gut. Abstracts, of up to one page, must reach John H Walsh, VA Wadsworth Medical Center, CURE, Building 115, Los Angeles, California 90073 USA before 1 March 1981. Further information may be obtained from him at that address.

## Books

### Recent Advances in Gastroenterology

Edited by I A D Bouchier. (Pp. 347. £16.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1980.

This new edition of *Recent Advances* is particularly welcome, as Professor Bouchier has tackled the difficult task of updating the reader in the whole sphere of gastroenterology rather than presenting a series of specialised topics as in previous editions. The Editor has chosen a distinguished group of contributors from Great Britain and the United States. These writers have reviewed progress in each major aspect of the system in the first eight chapters, while the last two sections deal with gastrointestinal endoscopy and paediatric gastroenterology. Clearly the limitation of space set by a volume of this size has led to some restriction of text and the illustrations are few but generally the coverage of each topic is concise and clear, while the references are extensive.

The two opening chapters on the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum cover this large field with particular attention to new developments, including the difficult topic of the control of the gastro-oesophageal sphincter. The results of the numerous trials which have been conducted on the treatment of peptic ulceration by H<sub>2</sub>-receptor blockers and surgery have been summarised in a series of useful tables. Particularly well presented were the two sections on the 'Liver' and 'Hepatitis—virus and antigens', where a great deal of new material is presented in a clear and readable manner. Current endoscopic practice has been summarised in a small useful chapter with some emphasis on the growing field of therapeutic endoscopy. The paediatric section is a welcome reminder to the general

physician of the plethora of congenital and metabolic problems encountered by his colleagues specialising in this aspect of gastroenterology.

This volume will be a valuable guide to the registrar in training as well as to the general physician wishing to keep abreast of developments in gastroenterology, while the specialist in the field will find the extensive references of considerable value. Altogether this is a well-balanced informative book and a valuable addition to any medical library.

R A PARKINS

**Clinics in Gastroenterology** (Vol. 9 No. 1) **Virus Hepatitis** Guest Editor: Sheila Sherlock DBE. (Pp. 228. Illustrated. £9.00.) W B Saunders: Eastbourne. 1980. This issue of the *Clinics* continues the high standard of its predecessors with a collection of 11 authoritative reviews on various aspects of viral hepatitis (strangely the volume is called *virus hepatitis*) by authors chiefly from the United Kingdom. There has been continuous progress in our knowledge of the hepatitis B virus since the Australian antigen was discovered in 1964 and now one major advance—namely, active immunisation—must be close. All aspects of hepatitis B are covered in five chapters, ranging from the now complex assay of serological markers associated with the virus to the association of hepatomata with carriage of the virus. Hepatitis A, and non-A non-B hepatitis are also fully described in separate chapters. Sadly, there is nothing on unusual causes of hepatitis in this country and abroad, such as glandular fever, yellow fever, herpes simplex, etc, which could have been substituted for a strangely out-of-place last chapter on four examples of drug-related hepatitis.

As so often, the histological figures are disappointing, but the book can be highly recommended.

R P H THOMPSON

**Prostaglandins** By D F Horrobin. (Pp. 391; £12.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1979.

This book covers many topics, including a factual account of prostaglandins with regard to the gut, and hypotheses on gastrointestinal diseases. However, these aspects comprise less than six pages, and this limits the interest from a purely gastroenterological viewpoint, although

sections such as prostaglandin biochemistry and measurement are obviously relevant to all disciplines. Other chapters include accounts of the actions of prostaglandins on the circulation, kidney, nervous system, eye, and respiration, and their roles in inflammation, metabolism, and cell function. In addition there are several chapters on prostaglandins and various diseases.

Dr Horrobin aimed to produce more than just an easy-to-read reference book. His stated goal was to stimulate, provoke or even infuriate others with his hypotheses, and to make various philosophical points. These include his view that ideas without much experimental evidence should be freely published, on the basis that even if they are wrong they will regardless lead to valuable work.

Dr Horrobin makes many hypotheses using interpretations of his own work which are often presented as facts. Only those readers conversant with the literature will know that the validity of many such interpretations is far from established. But perhaps some investigators will be directed into the 'right' research for what may be the 'wrong' reasons. So if you are looking for an account on prostaglandins and the gastrointestinal tract, this book will outline various areas and direct you to reviews and research papers. If you want a scientifically wide-ranging, somewhat racy, unconventional book, you will probably find this one stimulating, provoking, or even infuriating.

ALAN BENNETT

**Reoperative Gastro-intestinal Surgery** (Second edition) By Thomas Taylor White and R Cameron. (Pp. 331. Illustrated. \$44.25.) Little Brown: USA. 1980. Rescue surgery is the province of a particular type of surgeon, but this book will appeal to those who from time to time have to perform this form of surgery on their patients. It touches in several of the chapters on the avoidance of the problem but mostly assumes that it has happened.

The chapters are usually contributed by more than one author and are comprehensive—in some instances ever so, in that they appear almost to dredge up every conceivable complication. Yet the attention to detail sufficient to make the book informative in all areas is only true of the upper gastrointestinal sections. Two hundred and sixty five pages are devoted to oesophagus, stomach, duo-

denum, biliary tract, and pancreas, while only 40 are devoted to the small intestine and colon. In this respect the text might well have been called 'reoperative surgery in the upper gastro-intestinal tract.' The section on wound healing, admittedly a problem after repeated operations, adds little that is new in a text mainly concerned with surgical tactics in the critical choice of a salvage operation.

But the book is reasonably up to date in that it brings in the use of endoscopy as a means of investigating the post-surgical problem and mentions its use as an alternative to reoperating on, for example, the biliary tract; it is at its most authoritative when dealing with the stomach, biliary tract, and pancreas, where the experience of the senior authors is reflected in the text.

Each surgeon reading this book (which is a second edition) will experience a series of personal *déjà vu* phenomena at times. One wonders whether so many of these complications will happen in the lifetime of the next generation of surgeons as H<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonists and highly selective vagotomy and the like alter the surgical scene. Only time will tell. At the present time this book is a monument to the ingenuity of the surgeons who have devised such varied means of circumventing the perils into which their patients have, for better or worse, landed. The authors use a colloquial approach at times for what must have been a very difficult task and in which it is this reviewer's opinion they have been reasonable successful. A book both for consultation by those in training or for quick reference by others when all is not well surgically.

ADAM N SMITH

## Books received

**Advances in Psychosomatic Medicine: Vol 10: Psychotherapeutic Interventions in Life-Threatening Illness** Edited by H Freyberger. (Pp. 206; illustrated; \$57.00) Karger, Basel. 1980.

**Essays of an Information Scientist** Vol 1, 1962-73, Vol 2, 1974-76. By Eugene Garfield (Pp. 544 and 708; \$25.00) ISI Press, Philadelphia, 1977.

**Gastrointestinal Surgery** Edited by J S Najarian and J P Delaney. (Pp. 719; illustrated; \$43.50). Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago. 1979.