Notes and activities

BSG Autumn Meeting 1981
The 42nd Annual Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held at the University of Exeter on 23 to 25 September under the aegis of the President (Professor AE Read, Bristol), Vice-President (Professor CG Clark, London), and Vice-President Endoscopy (Dr PB Cotton, London). The meeting opened with a Teaching Session on hepatocellular carcinoma, chaired by Dr Roger Williams and organised jointly with the Liver Club. The Basic Science Group Symposium (chaired by Professor A Bennett and Dr VS Chadwick) dealt with 'The gut as a barrier'. Other groups that met on the first day were the Endoscopy and Gastrointestinal Diagnostic Nursing Forum (chaired by Ms M Hardman), Pathologists’ Group (chaired by Dr PP Anthony), Liver Club free paper session (chaired by Dr IM Murray Lyon), and the Radiologists’ Group (chaired by Dr DJ Nolan).

The main meeting included an Endoscopy Symposium on early gastric cancer (chaired by Dr PB Cotton). The Endoscopy Foundation lecture was given by Dr Alan Kerr Grant under the title 'An Australian perspective'. Professor Henri Sarles (Marseille) delivered the Sir Arthur Hurst lecture on 'Chronic pancreatitis and alcohol consumption' in the Great Hall during the plenary session. One hundred and twenty-seven papers were presented to the Society and there were 15 posters.

The BSG Annual Dinner was held at Devonshire House, when Professor CG Clark was duly installed as President. There was a meeting of the Prout Club and there was a variety of daytime tours and evening entertainments. The local secretary Mr Tom Irvin, Miss E Stephenson, and the University of Exeter conference office are hereby thanked for their hard work, rewarded by a very successful and enjoyable meeting.

Postgraduate Gastroenterology Course: Oxford
This course will be held from 3–6 January 1982, and is designed for consultants and registrars, including those who do not specialise in gastroenterology. It will consist of selected topics which are of current interest in relation to the normal functioning of the digestive system and its diseases. The fee for the course will be £55, and the closing date for applications is 1 December 1981. Details from Dr D P Jewell, The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU. (Telephone Oxford 64711).

Books


Within a few years flexible gastrointestinal endoscopy has advanced from being just a diagnostic technique to a powerful therapeutic weapon. The publication of this generally well-produced volume is thus timely and welcome.

Dr John Bennett has drawn together a distinguished international group of contributors from Europe, the UK, and the USA to present a well-balanced account of therapeutic endoscopy, and some facets of interventional radiology. The general standard of chapters is very high, although their practical value to gastroenterologists varies: the best are explicit, while the less successful merely indicate what is possible—without really revealing the secrets. Contributions are up to date and some, notably those dealing with control of gastrointestinal haemorrhage, look to the future. Each contributor assesses the results and complications of the techniques discussed and most focus attention on areas of uncertainty.

Illustrations are copious. The line diagrams and most of the photographs are good, but, sadly, many of the radiographs and most of the few black-and-white endoscopic photographs have not reproduced well and should perhaps have been omitted. Misprints are few.

The editor, contributors, and publishers are to be congratulated on their rapid publication of this work, which of necessity must be up to the minute if it is to be of value in such a rapidly advancing field.

To quote from the foreword by Dr S C Truelove: 'I feel sure that this book will prove to be an inspiration to many endoscopists and radiologists who have not yet ventured to embark on therapeutic techniques.' Moreover, it will be valuable also to experienced therapeutic endoscopists and should be available to all involved in this field.

R COCKELL

Progress in Liver Diseases Vol. VI

In the preface to the VIth volume of Progress in Liver Diseases, the editors draw a distinction between the Progress series and a textbook, in that the latter is comprehensive whereas the former emphasises areas of particular advance. But surely the purpose of any medical book is not only to educate but to stimulate research, provoke, and arouse interest in the subject, and this, the VIth volume in the series, nearly 20 years after the first, lives up to the remarkable record of its predecessors. The editors have done much in this series to delineate hepatology as a special discipline, which they regard as one of the greatest progress in the subject over this period.

Certainly the coverage in this volume of the developing areas of interest in liver disease is comprehensive and interdisciplinary. Not surprisingly, there are contributions on the hepatitis viruses, immunopathology, hepato-cellular carcinoma, bilirubin and bile acid metabolism, cholestasis, alcohol and drugs, and new diagnostic techniques in hepatology; in addition, there are topics of interest less often covered, such as cell surface receptors in the liver, hepato-tropic substances, the cytoskeleton of the hepatocyte, sinusoidal cells, ligands and endotoxin in liver disease. The contributors are a blend of established names and rising young stars and their material includes original work, excellent reviews, and stimulating hypotheses, all clearly written and beautifully produced. Although its price in Great Britain is only a little more than for a textbook twice its size, it is good value and to be highly recommended for all medical libraries and to postgraduates with a special interest in liver disease.

RALPH WRIGHT