

Notes and activities

Controlled Therapeutic Trial of Unrefined carbohydrate, Fibre-rich Diet in Crohn's Disease

This prospective multicentric trial aims to compare the clinical course in two groups of patients with inactive or mildly active Crohn's disease. One group of patients is advised to modify their diet to avoid refined carbohydrate and to increase their intake of unrefined carbohydrate, vegetables, and fruit and the second is advised not to do so. The duration of the trial is two years. The trial has been running for a year and 160 patients from 32 centres are included at present. To keep up the momentum of the trial, the participation of more centres is sought, as it seems probable that the clinicians already involved have included most of their suitable patients. Would any clinician interested in collaborating in the trial please get in touch with the Central Coordinator, Dr Jean Ritchie, St. Mark's Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PS.

National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC)

This association, which is non-medical, came into being in November 1979, its principal aim being to provide support, advice and information to sufferers from the chronic inflammatory bowel diseases and their families. Its subsidiary aim is to raise funds for research. NACC, which is a registered charity, already has over 1000 members. All inquiries regarding membership should be directed to the Chairman, Mr Robert Annetts, 3 Thorpefield Close, Marshalswick, St. Albans, Hertfordshire.

At the request of the association's Executive Committee, a Medical Advisory Committee has recently been formed under the chairmanship of Professor J E Lennard-Jones. This committee would like to expand its existing list of gastroenterologists willing to act as local medical advisers to the association, and anyone who is interested should contact the Hon. Secretary of the NACC Medical Advisory Committee, Dr Stephen Kane, West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 6AF.

Bayliss and Starling Society

The National Scientific Meeting of this Society on 'Regulatory peptides and gut

hormones' will be held on 18-19 December 1981 at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London. Invited address: Professor Viktor Mutt. Details from Dr S R Bloom/Dr J M Polak, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS.

First European Motility Symposium

This Symposium, organised by the European Motility Group, will be held in Bologna in September 1982. These symposia will take place every two years, alternating with the symposium of the International Motility Association. Details from Professor Dr G Vantrappen, University Hospital St. Rafaël, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.

Books

Endoscopy and Biopsy in Gastroenterology

Edited by P Fruhmorgen and M Classen. (Pp. 198; illustrated; DM 65). Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1980.

This book joins a number of recent new books relating to gastrointestinal endoscopy, and is the translation of a volume first published in German in 1979. Edited by two renowned leaders in the field of endoscopic innovation, the chapters are written by many well-known German specialists with one by Professor Menghini from Italy. The book is divided into two parts—a general section covering such topics as organisation, cleaning and maintenance, documentation, and complications and two very useful chapters on the acquisition and processing of both biopsy and cytology specimens.

The larger, second part of the book is curiously entitled 'Special Section' and covers the basic techniques, preparation, indications and contraindications for such procedures as OGD, including the post-operative stomach, and emergency endoscopy, ERCP, enteroscopy, colonoscopy, proctosigmoidoscopy, and proctoscopy. There are also chapters on needle liver biopsy, percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography, and a variety of laparoscopic procedures, in addition to a chapter, by the two editors, in therapeutic endoscopy. This chapter is surprisingly brief on foreign body removal considering the improvisations which have been reported; and the important

topic of oesophageal dilatation and tube insertion is regrettably omitted completely.

In general the presentations are all concise, well laid out and liberally illustrated with black-and-white photographs and many helpful line diagrams, supplemented by numerous tables.

The text is often short and very didactic and essentially presents the experience of the authors with little, or no, review of the experience of others. It seems a pity that the translation of this book into the English language was not accompanied by some editing to make it more of an international edition.

Nevertheless, this small and inexpensive book is quite comprehensive and covers a variety of areas not yet provided for in the gastroenterological literature. It will be most useful in those departments where there are both doctors and nurses under training in GI procedures and, unusually for this publisher, is well within their own financial capabilities.

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Books received

Liver and Biliary Tract Physiology I. International Review of Physiology Vol 21 Edited by Norman B Javitt. (Pp. 368; illustrated; price not stated). Baltimore: University Park Press. 1981.

Systemic Effects of HBsAG Immune Complexes Edited by Ettore Bartoli, Livio Chianducci, and Sheila Sherlock. (Pp. 308; illustrated; price not stated). Padova: Piccin Medical Books. 1981.

Correction

Gut October issue, p A880, abstract F25: Cimetidine and perforated peptic ulcers, by A J McKay and C S McArdle. The second sentence in the second paragraph should read: 'Since cimetidine became available (November 1976) the mean annual number of elective operations has fallen from 91.4 to 50.4 (45% reduction). The number of perforations has fallen from 40.6 to 36.5 (10% reduction).