Notes and activities

Thomas Cecil Hunt, CBE, DM, FRCP

Tommy Hunt, who died on 22 December 1980, played a leading role in British gastroenterology for over 50 years. In 1937 he was a founder member of the Gastroenterological Club, which became the BSG. He helped to inaugurate the European and Mediterranean Society of Gastroenterology and in 1956 was President of its meeting in London: this, indeed, was the first international congress in gastroenterology. He played an equally important role in the early days of the World Congress of Gastroenterology and his great skill in diplomacy enabled it to survive and flourish. For many years he had a key role in the affairs of the BSG and was President in 1956. The first paper in Volume 1 of *Gut* was written by him, recording the early history of the BSG.

He was a fine physician and one of the first to appreciate the importance of psychosomatic aspects. He studied endocrinology in Vienna under Professor Bauer while holding the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship, but his first research study related to duodenal intubation; this was undertaken while holding the Mackenzie Mackinnon Fellowship of The Royal College of Physicians. The work greatly impressed Sir Arthur Hurst and indeed determined his life-long interest in gastroenterology. Hunt was closely concerned for many years with clinical trials on duodenal ulcer using carbenoxolone and with the geographical epidemiology of alimentary tract cancer. His energy continued throughout his life and at the age of 70 he started the British Digestive Diseases Foundation; its success over the next 10 years in raising funds for research was largely due to the same enthusiasm and pleasing personality which had been so characteristic of his life's contribution to world gastroenterology.

F A J

C A Ewald Prize

The German Society for Digestive and Metabolic Diseases will be awarding, for the first time, the C A Ewald Prize of DM10 000 for outstanding work on the theme 'Pathogenesis of peptic ulcer'. Scientists under 40 years of age are eligible for the prize, and work should be submitted in either German or English, accompanied by a curriculum vitae and

a bibliography (five copies each). The work may have been published or accepted for publication in 1980 or 1981 or be unpublished. Applications must be received before 15 May 1981 and should be addressed to: Herrn Prof Dr W Creutzfeldt, Direktor der Medizinischen Universitätsklinik Göttingen, Humboldtallee 1, D-3400 Göttingen, West Germany.

World Congress of Gastroenterology, Digestive Endoscopy, and Colo-Proctology This congress will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, 14-19 June 1982. Details from Stockholm Convention Bureau, Jakobs Torg 3, S-111 52 Stockholm, Sweden.

16th Meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver

This meeting will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 3-5 September 1981. Closing date for abstracts is 15 May 1981. Details from Helmer Ring-Larsen, Division of Hepatology, Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen, DK-2650 Copenhagen, Denmark. Telephone: (45) 1) 47 14 11.

Books

Practical Points in Gastroenterology By E D Palmer. (Pp 279. Illustrated. £9.00.) Henry Kimpton: London. 1980.

This is an unusual book. It is neither a mini-encyclopaedia nor a series of lecture notes. Although it has been advertised as a gastroenterological dictionary, it is more than that, being one man's life-time experience of the specialty. Dr Palmer originally intended to write a handbook for interns and as such it is a useful work to keep in the ward office even though the drugs bear American names and SI units have yet to be introduced. There are chapters on all aspects of alimentary and liver disease including such Cinderella areas as the spleen, parasites, electrolytes, and gastrointestinal manifestations of other diseases. The text is not quite comprehensive and many will disagree with some of the author's unconventional views. However, he disarms criticism in a preface which explains that the book should be read as a companion to larger tomes and urges the student to use it as a template on which to develop his own experience. There are a number of idiosyncrasies—quaint pathological terms, eponyms, and a complete absence of references, so that the sources of his data

are not disclosed. It is not really a book for undergraduates, who might be tempted to memorise details without reading elsewhere. Similarly, it might mislead some candidates for higher examinations. However, it is an excellent text for their teachers and should encourage all thinking gastroenterologists to re-examine aspects of their practice.

N H DYER

Hepatic Biliary and Pancreatic Surgery Edited by John S Najarian and John P Delaney (Pp 739. Illustrated. £66.00.) Year Book Medical Publishers: London. 1980.

Each spring the University of Minnesota sponsors a meeting for continuing education in surgery. This book records the proceedings of the meeting held in 1979. It opens with the Judd Memorial Lecture given by Lord Smith—'Some lessons from the history of medicine'. There follow five sections, four of which (biliary tract, spleen, pancreas, and oesophageal varices) are almost entirely surgical but the remaining section (liver) contains much of medical interest. At the end of each session there is an account of the discussions which took place at the meeting. Many of the most distinguished names in American surgery took part and references are given at the end of each contribution. There are a number of self-evaluation quizzes.

The papers are generally of a high standard and deal with most of the relevant controversial topics. The information is mostly up to date and balanced so that the references represent a good starting point for anyone wishing to read up a particular subject. It is difficult to single out individual contributions from more than 50, but the contributions on bile duct strictures (Lord Smith) sclerosing cholangitis (Dr K W Warren), unusual bile duct lesions (Dr W P Longmore), and hepatic trauma (Dr A J Wait) were among the best. The contribution on liver abscess describes 20 consecutive patients who were treated by surgical drainage and antibiotics with no deaths; most other series record a less satisfactory result and in the discussion there is no mention of what is nowadays regarded by some clinicians as a reasonable alternative—namely, needle aspiration and antibiotics.

Some of the most enjoyable and instructive parts of the book were the discussion sessions. The one moderated by Dr R M Zollinger is a model of how to cajole and extract the most from a panel of experts. The self-evaluation quizzes

seem somewhat superfluous in a volume of this calibre.

This book can be thoroughly recommended except for the fact that it is a staggering £66. The price will no doubt limit its sale, which is a shame as there is much in it for any one interested in the surgery of the foregut.

JOHN DAWSON

Abdominal Operations (vols 1 and 2) By Rodney Maingot. (Pp 2577. Illustrated. £90.05.) Appleton-Century-Crofts: New York. 1980.

Six years separate the last two editions of Maingot's *Abdominal Operations*. This two-volume set remains a classic reference work. It is beloved and appreciated by large numbers of surgeons throughout the world and I have no doubt that it will remain so despite the cost of £90.05. The work remains a good buy and must still be recommended, although, on reading both this edition and its predecessor, I am increasingly of the opinion that a firmer editorial hand is now needed to weld the contributions of the 133 eminent authors into a less unwieldy, less repetitious, and less patchy work. I suspect that most surgeons, whether in training or in established practice, find that the strength of the book has lain, and continues to lie, in its description of the technique of operative surgery. The editor states in his Preface that fully 80% of the text and illustrations are devoted to the minutiae of present-day techniques. I would like to see this figure pushed closer to 100% in the next editions (and I am sure that there should be further editions), and would appreciate a reduction in the sometimes discursive accounts of modern diagnostic procedures and the clinical and pathological aspects of many lesions of the abdominal viscera. These aspects of surgical practice are better dealt with elsewhere and in my view detract from the real purpose of *Abdominal Operations*. Although many good new illustrations have been added, many of the older line-drawings, endoscopy plates, and photographs of operative specimens need to be replaced or dropped.

I have no doubt that many devotees of *Abdominal Operations* will disagree violently with any suggestion that the book be modified. I still feel that it represents the best buy of its kind on the market, but the time for more stringent editing has arrived.

D C CARTER

Books received

Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology vol. 15, suppl. 65. XI International Congress of Gastroenterology, *Carbenoxolone Symposium* Edited by Sir Francis Avery Jones, T C Hunt, and P I Reed. (Pp 120; illustrated) Oslo, Universitets forlaget: 1980.

Gaceta Medica de Mexico Vol. 116. **Symposium on Alcoholism** (Pp. 61; price not stated). Mexico: Academia Nacional de Medicina, 1980.

Alcohol and the Gastrointestinal Tract Edited by Christiane Stock, Henri Sarles, and J C Bode (Pp 539; illustrated; price not stated). INSERM: Paris, 1980.

Familial Hyperbilirubinemia Edited by L Okolicsany (Pp 263; illustrated; £15.50). Wiley: Bognor Regis. 1980.

Prostaglandins and Related Lipids Volume 1 Prostaglandin Synthetase Inhibitors: New Clinical Applications. Edited by Peter Ramwell (Pp 410; illustrated; \$34). Alan Liss: New York, 1980.

The Genetics and Heterogeneity of Common Gastrointestinal Disorders Edited by Jerome I Rotter, I Michael Samloff, and David L Rimoin. (Pp 582; illustrated; price not stated). Academic Press: New York. 1980.

Biological Roles of Copper (Ciba Foundation Symposium 79, New Series). Edited by David Evered and Geryl Lawrensen (Pp 343; illustrated; \$56.50). Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1980.

Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract Standardisation of Nomenclature, Diagnostic Criteria and Diagnostic Methodology. By Carroll M Leevy, Hans Popper, and Sheila Sherlock. (Pp 212; £12). Castle House Publications: Tunbridge Wells. 1979.

Advances in Ulcer Disease Edited by K-H Holtermuller and J-R Malagelada (Pp 558; illustrated; \$109.75). Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1981.

Drug Absorption Edited by L F Prescott and W S Nimmo (Pp 353; illustrated; £24.95) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1979.

Current Concepts of Digestion and Absorption in Pigs Edited by A G Low and I G Partridge. (Pp 222; illustrated; £6). National Institute for Research in Dairying: Shinfield, Reading. 1980.