Notes and activities

American Philosophical Society
Dr C C Booth, editor of Gut, has been elected a member of The American Philosophical Society. The Society, 'for promoting useful knowledge', was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin and colleagues. It was the first learned society in America and was founded in emulation of the Royal Society of London and the Society of Arts of Dublin.

Hurst Research Travel Grant
The British Digestive Foundation has awarded the first Arthur Hurst Travel Grant to Dr H J Klass of the North Manchester General Hospital who will be working at the departments of gastroenterology at L'Hopital Saint-Marguerite in Marseilles (Professor Henri Sarles) and the Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität in Frankfurt (Professor Meinhard Classen) studying pancreatic disease and clinical gastroenterology as an extension to his work in Manchester.

XI International Congress of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
This Congress will be held at the Barbican Centre for Arts and Conferences, London, 17-22 October 1982. Details from Conference Associates ICACI, 34 Stamford Road, London W8 5PZ.

1st Franco-British Joint Meeting on Gastrointestinal Pathology (combined meeting of BSG Pathologists' Group and Club D'Histopathologie Digestive)
This meeting will take place in Rheims, France, on 23-24 OCTOBER 1981. Details may be obtained from Dr J H O Earle, Department of Pathology, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London SW15.

American Pancreatic Association Inc., and the National Pancreatic Cancer Project
The annual joint scientific meeting of these two bodies will be held on 6–7 November 1981, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 28 August 1981. Details from Dr Isidore Cohn, National Pancreatic Cancer Project, 1542 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112.

British Society for Immunology
The Summer Meeting will take place on Thursday 23 July and Friday, 24 July, 1981 and will include a Symposium on gastrointestinal immunology on the Thursday and simultaneous sessions of free papers on gastrointestinal immunology on the Friday in the Medical and Biological Sciences Building, Southampton Medical School. Further details from Professor Ralph Wright, Professorial Medical Unit, Southampton General Hospital, Tremona Road, Southampton.

Books

Recent advances in the microbiology and pathogenesis of gastrointestinal infections have led to a number of publications and this most recent volume deals with microbiology, pathophysiology as well as clinical features. Infections of the gastrointestinal tract separate into a compact group of disorders which can be encompassed conveniently in a book such as the present volume. Unfortunately, this convenience does not extend to the clinical situation where patients present with diarrhoea, which may be of infective or non-infective aetiology. The authors confine themselves to dealing with the problem at a stage when the diagnosis has been established. It is in the unstable no-man's-land before the stage of confirmation that so much difficulty and angst occur.
Within the strict limits set by the authors, this is an interesting, useful book, containing a great deal of information. Eleven chapters make up the text starting with immune mechanisms in infectious diarrhoea, followed by chapters on specific pathogens, and ending with a section on the diagnosis and treatment of acute diarrhoea and fluid and dietary management. There are good sections on salmonella infections and bacillary dysentery: the point is made that agents which reduce gut motility, so commonly used, may occasionally prolong the illness and can contribute to the development of toxic dilatation of the colon. It is interesting to note that cholera and Esch. coli diarrhoea are discussed together in a single chapter that is one of the best things in the book. The mechanism of action of cholera toxin and heat labile Esch. coli toxin via adenyl cyclase and cyclic AMP is well done in rather more detail than might be expected in a volume of this size.
It is strange to find a book on infective diarrhoea published in 1980 which does not include some reference to antibiotic-induced diarrhoea in general and pseudomembranous enterocolitis in particular. Clostridium difficile does not appear in the index.
Each chapter has a useful and full list of references: salmonellosis gets 226 and cholera/Esch. coli, 262. There are a number of line drawings and some black and white plates of very varying quality; the plate (5-2) on page 93 purporting to show rose spots in typhoid fever should be discarded.
This book cannot be unreservedly recommended; its appeal will be mainly to the specialist wishing to confirm a contemporary view with recent references. The price of £24-50 means that it will be consulted more often in institutional rather than in personal libraries.

HILLAS SMITH

Radiographic Atlas of Colon Disease
This is an interesting and unusual book, more a series of disconnected essays than a text book. Sixty-nine authors have contributed to 49 chapters with 849 illustrations. As might be expected, the book covers the whole range of colonic radiology but its particular strength lies in the numerous chapters on unusual subjects such as Behçet's disease, herpetic colitis, autonomic dysreflexia, duplication of the colon, and so on. Although many of the chapters are short, they contain much useful information for both gastroenterologists and radiologists which is not readily available elsewhere. The book would be worth having for the references alone.
The illustrations are small and not particularly well produced but they are, in general, adequate to illustrate the points in the text. A surprisingly high proportion show single contrast examinations, reflecting the relatively recent conversion to double contrast enemas on the other side of the Atlantic.
The organisation of the book is odd,