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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 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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# Symposia in Basic Gastroenterology

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## NOTICE

### International Symposium PRECANCEROUS CONDITIONS OF THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

Bologna (Italy)—October 7–9, 1981

**Promoted by:**

International Academy of Pathology  
European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
Italian Society of Gastroenterology

**Topics to be covered include:**

- ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND EXPERIMENTAL CARCINOGENESIS
- PRECANCEROUS CONDITIONS AND LESIONS
- MARKERS OF CANCER RISK—TREATMENT AND SURVEILLANCE OF HIGH RISK GROUPS
- PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF G.I. CANCER PREVENTION

The programme will consist of formal presentations and panel discussions by invited speakers and presentations of free papers from submitted abstracts (deadline June 30, 1981).

**The members of the Chairman Board include:**

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*For further information and abstract forms please contact:*

M. Miglioli—W. Grigioni, Clinica Medica III, Policlinico S. Orsola, 40136 Bologna, Italy—  
Telephone 051/30.05.41—39.15.40

## Notes and activities

### BSG Spring Meeting, Bristol, Avon

The Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held on the campus of the University of Bristol on 9–10 April, with Professor A E Read as President and Dr P B Cotton as Vice-President (Endoscopy). To Dr K Heaton and his team go the thanks of members and guests for maintaining the high standards of efficient organisation to which our Society has now become accustomed through the unstinting efforts of successive Local Secretaries. This time the scientific and social pleasures of the meeting were enhanced by the beauty and historical interest of the town. The original communications were preceded by the Teaching Half Day devoted to colonic cancer surveillance and by meetings of histopathologists' and radiologists' groups. There were endoscopy sessions on disasters, disinfection, and technology. Some 104 original papers were read before the Society and 12 posters were available for discussion. Dr N W Read gave the Research Medallist's lecture dealing with mechanisms of diarrhoea. The social programme included a conference dinner, sherry tasting, visits to the Theatre Royal and Bath, and a tour of Bristol. It was a most enjoyable meeting.

### Symposia in Basic Gastroenterology

This second symposium of the series 'Autonomic nerves of the gut' will be held in London on 22 September 1981, and has been organised by J M Polak, S R Bloom, N A Wright, and M Daly in collaboration with the Medical Department of Glaxo Group Research. Invited speakers include N Le Douarin (Paris), G Gabella (London), B Smith (London), V L Vantrappen (Belgium), J Furness (Australia), and M G Gershon (USA). Details from Dr M Daly, Glaxo Group Research Ltd, Ware, Herts SG12 0DJ.

### Indian Society of Gastroenterology

The 22nd Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology will be held in association with the Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of India and the Liver Study Group of India at the Medical College, Trivandrum, Kerala State, India, from 20 to 22 September 1981. Details can be had from Dr N Rajan, Organising Secretary, 22nd Annual

Conference ISG, Ward No. 6, Medical College Hospital, Trivandrum-695 011, Kerala, India.

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

This meeting will be held in Lisbon, Portugal on September 3–5 1981.

Details from Helmer Ring-Larsen, Division of Hepatology, Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen, DK-2650 Copenhagen, Denmark. (Tel: (45 1) 47 14 11.)

### IVth International Symposium of Gastroenterology and Nutrition

An international symposium on 'Milk intolerances and rejection' will be held in Nice, 27–28 November 1981. Details may be obtained from Dr A G Harris, Département d'Hépatologie Gastro Entérologie, Hôpital de Cimiez, 4, Av. Reine Victoria, 06000 Nice, France. (Tél. (93) 81 25 25.)

## Books

**Gastrointestinal Hormones** Edited by George B Jerzy Glass. (Pp. 1008. Illustrated. \$115.60.) Raven Press: New York. 1980.

In a field which is expanding as rapidly as gastrointestinal endocrinology, new books must have a very short half life. It is natural therefore to question the need for this book, particularly as several books, mostly symposia proceedings, in this field have been published in recent years. However, having recovered from my initial scepticism, I found this book impressive. In over 1000 pages and some 43 chapters the whole field is covered very well indeed. The topics dealt with include isolation and characterisation of the known gastrointestinal hormones and their synthesis. Receptor interactions, effects on the gastrointestinal tract, and methods of assay are all considered in depth. A section on 'candidate' hormones places this group of compounds, awaiting a role, in perspective. This section includes an excellent chapter by Victor Mutt which summarises much of the current work on these putative humors. Most chapters are well written by acknowledged experts in the field and, indeed, it is hard to find a worker who has been omitted. All chapters are very fully referenced and an interesting innovation is the inclusion of a section at the end of each chapter on

'projections for the future' where contributors have been asked to indulge in speculation.

The particular merits of this book are that it is exhaustive, authoritative, and up to date. It is very well referenced and hence an excellent source of current views on virtually every aspect of gastrointestinal endocrinology. It is well produced and strongly recommended to anyone interested in the field. L A TURNBERG

**Current Gastroenterology** Edited by Gary L Gitnick, Volume 1. (Pp 463. Illustrated. \$35 US. \$43.75 elsewhere.) Houghton Mifflin: Boston. 1980.

This volume is a successor to *Current Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, and is separated from its burgeoning sister volume *Current Hepatology*.

The editor has chosen a series of mainly American authors, and, in an interesting attempt to make sure that individual authors do not pursue their favourite hobby horses to the exclusion of other topics—or else describe their own research to an unwelcome extent—each chapter has been submitted to peer review before publication.

The style will be familiar to anyone who has previously read volumes of the 'Year book . . .' or 'Recent advances . . .' type. The period covered is largely 1978 and 1979. The main chapters deal with the oesophagus, stomach, small bowel, colon, and pancreas. Certain specific topics are also given sections—for example, inflammatory bowel disease and gastrointestinal cancer, surgery, and endoscopy. Sections on gut hormones, nutrition, and relationships of the diseased gut with other body organs complete the book.

The volume is well produced, with a clear and easily-read text, broken up into frequent subsections and paragraphs. The illustrations are plentiful and crisply reproduced. The standard of individual chapters is remarkably high even for a multi-author book of this type.

Two aspects deserve special mention. Firstly, the documentation is excellent, most chapters having 100 or 200 references, some more. Secondly, the authors, perhaps with editorial urging, seem to have gone out of their way to write in an entertaining fashion. The reader shares in their obvious delight at being able to describe such fascinating items as hairy oesophagus or the gay bowel syndrome. Gastroenterologists will certainly find much to interest them in this volume.

R F HARVEY

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### Medical and Surgical Problems of Portal Hypertension

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### Surgical Management of Obesity

edited by **J. D. Maxwell, J.-C. Gazet and T. R. E. Pilkington**

1980, xii + 356pp., £15.00 (UK only)/\$36.00

0.12.792818.9 (Academic Press) 0.8089.1294.1 (Grune & Stratton)\*

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