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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.

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factors, see *The SI for the Health Professions* (WHO, 1977). **NB: 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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ISSN 0017-5749

Editorial announcement

The following additions to the contents of *Gut* are being made.

Correspondence column

The Editor welcomes letters from readers of *Gut* and the correspondence column is now open. Letters should be addressed to the Editor and be as short as possible, as there is considerable pressure on our available space. They should preferably deal with matters of scientific interest pertaining to papers published in recent issues of *Gut*, but other topics of general interest to the readership can also be raised.

Letters should not exceed 1000 words, or contain more than three references (*Gut* style). They will be subject to editorial review and the decision whether or not to publish will rest with the Editor. Authors of papers referred to in correspondence will be given an opportunity to reply in the same issue.

Leading articles

Experts in various clinical and scientific areas will be invited to contribute leading articles to *Gut*, with particular reference to papers published in this journal. The leading articles will express the opinions of the writer, rather than those of the Editor or the Editorial Committee.

Abstracts of scientific meetings

Abstracts of meetings of scientific societies may be published in *Gut* at the discretion of the Editor, provided that the scientific content is of interest to *Gut* readers, that the papers are chosen by proper peer review, and that the society is well established and meets regularly. Costs of publication (details on application) will have to be met by the groups concerned. The format and length of abstracts must conform with the established usage of this journal.

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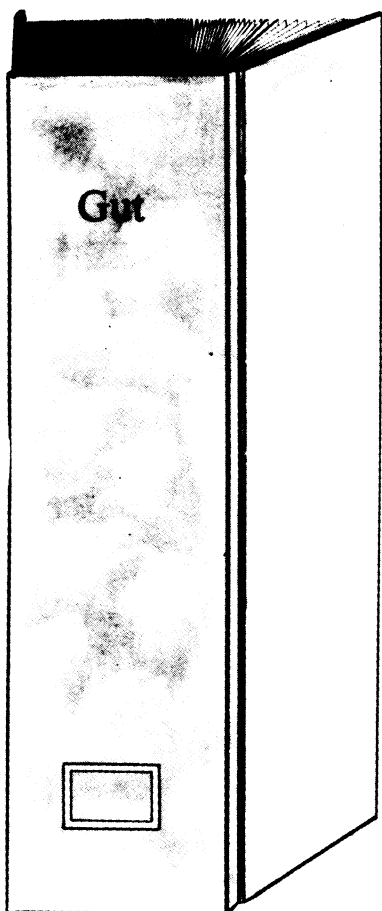
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