Correspondence

Immunological studies in inflammatory bowel disease SIR,—The leading article by Ferguson (*Gut* 1983; **24**: 687–91) on immunological studies in inflammatory bowel disease, and the paper by Fiocchi *et al* (pp. 692–701) prompted us to refer our data on T function in Crohn's disease.

While studying T rosette serum inhibitory factors in chronic active liver disease,¹ we also tested, as a disease control group, 14 sera from coeliac disease untreated patients. Rosette inhibitory factors were detected in 36% coeliac disease sera and they were associated with immunoglobulin factors reacting in immunofluorescence with purified T lymphocyte. Furthermore, inhibitory activity was abolished by treatment of sera with (NH₄)₂SO₄, which precipitates gammaglobulin fraction. We conclude that in some coeliac disease cases serum immunoglobulin factors, which can interfere with T lymphocyte functions, are present.

We agree that direct studies on intestinal lymphoid system are likely to be the best way to detect immunological abnormalities underlying these diseases, but we would like to point out that also at this level results are rather conflicting. In fact, other authors² have reported reduced suppressor cell activity in intestinal lymphocytes from patients with coeliac disease. Furthermore, our data would suggest that systemic factors also may be relevant in modulating immune reactions in these conditions.

DANIELA ZAULI, M FUSCONI, CRISTINA CRESPI,
G COMETTI, F B BIANCHI, AND E PISI

*Istituto di Patologia Speciale Medica I,
University of Bologna,
Via Massarenti 9,
40138 Bologna, Italy.*

References

- 1 Zauli, D, Bianchi FB, Fusconi M, Crespi C, Pisi E. Evaluation of serum rosette inhibitory factors in chronic liver disease. *Clin Exp Immunol* 1983; **53**: 145–50.
- 2 Goodacre RL, Bienenstock J. Reduced suppressor cell activity in intestinal lymphocytes from patients with Crohn's disease. *Gastroenterology* 1982; **82**: 653–8.

Books

Manual of paediatric parenteral nutrition Edited by John A Kerner Jr. (Pp. 365; illustrated; £33.25.) New York: John Wiley, 1983.

In the late 1960s, Dudrick and Wilmore successfully showed that an adequate calorie intake could be provided solely by the intravenous route, and allow an infant to grow and develop normally. Parenteral nutrition has become a standard technique in both paediatric and adult gastroenterology, and this volume is a distillate of the experience and practice of the nutritional support team of Stanford University Medical Centre. The subject is covered comprehensively, and the chapters range from indications and specific requirements to practical aspects such as biochemical monitoring, nursing care and an extremely valuable contribution on ethics and psychosocial problems. The information given on specific requirements is very variable in quality – if only all these chapters were as good as that devoted to fat requirements! The potentially difficult period, when prolonged catabolism is reversed to anabolism and vast swings in the requirements of specific substances, is hardly discussed. Two other chapters on solution preparation problems and the transition to enteral feeding also deal with the key issues poorly, though the data on precipitation are valuable. Many of the commercial solutions discussed are different from those available on this side of the Atlantic, but this is only of minor inconvenience. With the ever increasing proliferation of microcomputers, there is not only a chapter on the use of computers, but also a program that generates solution mixing instructions, bottle labels and a record for the patient's notes. The program will run on any CP/M compatible computer.

In a rapidly changing field in which new information is constantly being generated, the authors have produced a book which is up to date, contains adequate references, and will be invaluable to house staff and registrars involved in feeding patients intravenously.

P J MILLA

Total parenteral nutrition in the hospital and at home Edited by K N Jeejeebhoy. (Pp. 255; illustrated; \$85.00.) Florida: CRC Press, Inc, 1983. Professor Jeejeebhoy's unit in Toronto is well-known for its work in the field of nutrition both for its experimental work and for the practical management of patients in hospital and at home. His new book concentrates on the latter aspect of his work and has additional chapters by members of the departments of surgery, pharmacy, and nursing. Unlike the majority of recent books on the subject, which often concentrate on theoretical aspects, this book is a highly specific down-to-earth practical manual. It contains chapters describing the