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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. A case report will be accepted only if it deals with a clinical problem which has been studied in detail and the resulting data provide material for further research. Letters dealing with matters arising from articles published in *Gut*, or with topics of general professional interest are encouraged, but the correspondence column should not be used for publication of original data.

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 written understanding, signed by all authors, that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee, and that all authors agree to publication in *Gut*. 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 first 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 value are given in SI units, but a conversion factor must be supplied. For general guidance on the International System of Units and some useful conversion 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.**

CORRECTIONS other than printers' errors may be charged to the author.

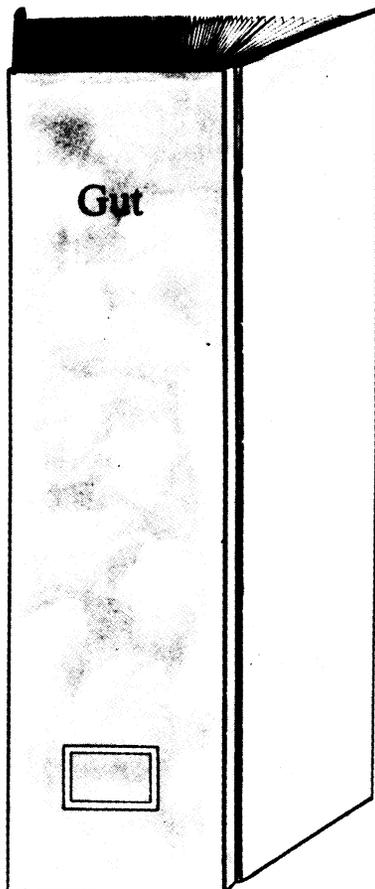
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ISSN 0017-5749



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tract and pancreatic disease (Zimmon), laparoscopy (Lightdale) and laser photocoagulation for GI bleeding, (Protell, Silverstein and Auth) deserve mention.

It is good to see so much practical informative and helpful reviews packed into this one volume. I can strongly recommend this book to the practising gastroenterologist.

L A TURNBERG

Pathology of the esophagus By H Enterline and J Thompson. (Pp. 192; illustrated; \$50.80.) Berlin, New York: Springer, 1984.

Having passed the barrier of having books on organs or diseases alone rather than systems, we are now at that stage of specialisation when monographs are published on one particular aspect of an organ. This particular volume contains 192 pages and 185 figures on the pathology of the oesophagus and might have been expected to be too specialised because it is written by pathologists with the aim of broadening the subject for their brethren by adding clinical, physiological, and radiological data. It is very clearly and simply written, however, with no jargon and well structured sentences, presents its pathological message excellently and has the advantage of definite statements by the authors, who are acknowledged experts in their field, when there is controversy. An example is the suggestion that 'polypoid carcinoma with dominant spindle cell elements' be used instead of carcinosarcoma or pseudosarcoma. There is a good discussion on dysplasia and its relationship to oesophageal cancer with comparisons from cervical cancer which is associated with similar problems. The photomicrographs are very clear but the endoscopic pictures have those awful black dots, representing broken fiberoptic bundles and the failure of publishers to enhance the image by eliminating them. Clinicians interested in the oesophagus will learn much by reading this monograph on oesophageal pathology even though it was aimed at pathologists.

R EARLAM

Books received

Cystic fibrosis: horizons Edited by D Lawson. (Pp. 446; illustrated; £15.00.) Chichester, Sussex: Wiley, 1984.

Hutchison's clinical methods 18th ed By M Swash and S Mason. (Pp. 502; illustrated; £5.50.) Eastbourne: Baillière Tindall, 1984.

Gastrointestinal endoscopy. Advances in diagnosis and therapy Volume 1 Edited by P R Salmon. (Pp. 278; illustrated; £17.50.) Andover Hants: Associated Book Publishers UK Limited, 1984.

Frontiers of hormone research. Interdisciplinary neuroendocrinology Volume editors: M Ratzenhofer, H Hofler, GF Walter. Series ed: TjB van Wimersma Greidanus. (Pp. 197; illustrated; \$88.75.) Basel, Switzerland: Karger, 1984.

News

British Society of Gastroenterology

The 1985 Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held at the University of Sussex from Wednesday 20 March to Friday 22 March 1985 under the Presidency of Professor Eric Blair. The first day was devoted to a teaching day on 'The ravages of alcohol'; duly warned, members and guests were entertained to a reception at the end of the day and progressed to the Conference Dinner in Hove Town Hall on the following evening. The scientific programme filled the second and third days, and included a lecture by Professor Howard Thomas, the 1985 Research Medallist. Apart from the programmes of various specialist groups that are now an established feature of the Society's meetings, 157 communications selected by the programme committee were given as oral or poster presentations.

BSG Research Award 1985

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Award Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1985 Award. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less (on 31 December 1985) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting in 1986. Applications (*six* copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ. *BY 1 DECEMBER 1985.*

Correction

The name of Dr Jørgen Rask Madsen was inadvertently omitted from the referees' list in our January issue, p. 106, and we would like to apologise for this oversight.

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION
(University of London)

Multi-centre course in advanced Gastroenterology

4-22 November 1985

This course offers a unique opportunity to visit eight major Gastroenterology units in London over a three-week period. The aims of the course are to provide lectures and clinical demonstrations for doctors with a special training or interest in gastroenterology and to provide an insight into the activities of units specialising in diseases of the liver, biliary system, pancreas and gastrointestinal tract. There is ample opportunity for discussion between course members and leading experts in medical, surgical, endoscopic and radiological aspects of gastroenterology.

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Enquiries and application forms from Secretary to the Gastroenterology Course, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ. Telephone: 01-831 6222, extension 39. Early application is recommended to ensure a place on this course.

STATISTICS IN PRACTICE

STATISTICS AND ETHICS IN MEDICAL
RESEARCH *Douglas G Altman*

STATISTICS IN QUESTION *Sheila M Gore*

No doctor can afford to ignore statistics: most modern medical research uses statistics. This important and authoritative book, which is a collection of articles that have appeared in the BMJ, provides clear information on designing studies, applying statistical techniques, and interpreting studies that use statistics. It can be easily understood by those with no statistical training and should be read by all those who want to keep abreast of new developments.

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ABC OF COMPUTING

A J ASBURY

Although computers are being widely used in medicine, their possibilities and limitations are still not clear to many potential users. This book, aimed at the non-expert, describes some of the uses of computers in medicine; because most doctors' involvement will be indirect, liaising with computer experts rather than designing systems themselves, the book concentrates on concepts rather than detailed descriptions of how computers work. It provides a useful introduction for the doctor who wants to know how computers can contribute to his practice of medicine.

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