thick on bile alcohols and primitive bile acids. There are two chapters which may have particular clinical appeal. First, chapter 5, dealing with cholesterol absorption and metabolism by the intestinal epithelium, discusses cholesterol absorption and synthesis, uptake of lipoproteins, cholesterol esterification, secretion of cholesterol into intestinal lymph and compartmentalisation of cholesterol. Second, chapter 14 which discusses the role of bile acids in intestinal lipid digestion and absorption, and reminds us that bile acids are not obligatory for the absorption of triglycerides but may be required for the absorption of other lipids such as cholesterol. Most chapters give extensive references up until 1983. There are a few references to original research in 1985 and 1986 although these are usually self-citations. There are 20 pages of indexing, containing around 1600 entries. As a biochemist I liked this book and although I searched for mistakes, I could find very few. A gastroenterologist needing a biochemical background to cholesterol and its metabolism (excluding steroid hormones), would find this a useful and accurate reference text. Unfortunately like all such books, it will rapidly become outdated as knowledge in this area increases.

H L J MAKIN

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News

**British Society of Gastroenterology**

The 1986 Autumn Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held under the presidency of Dr G P Crean in Cardiff on 24–26 September, 1986; 108 free papers and 100 posters were selected for presentation in the scientific sessions. The plenary session was held in the St David’s Hall and concluded with the Sir Arthur Hurst Lecture which was given by Dr K G Wormsley on ‘Alimentary carcinogenesis’. The Endoscopy Foundation Lecture was given by Professor G Vantrappen, and the meeting included four ‘State of the Art’ lectures. Generous commercial sponsorship enabled a varied social programme centred on Cardiff Castle; the latter accommodated not only simultaneous but separate banquets for endoscopists and hepatologists, but also, on the following evening, the annual dinner which was held in a marquee on the Castle Green.

21st Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation

This meeting will take place in Elsinore, Denmark from 21–24 March, 1987. Further details from ESCI-87, c/o D I Barry, Department of Psychiatry, 0 6234, Rigshospitalet – Blegdamsvej 9, DK 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.

American Board of Internal Medicine

1987 Subspecialty examinations in gastroenterology and critical care medicine. Registration period: 1 January – 1 April 1987. Examination date: 10 November 1987. Further information from the Registration Section, American Board of Internal Medicine, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA.

Course in Gastroenterology, Oxford

Six bursaries, each to the value of £160 will be available to British applicants of senior registrar or lecturer status, who are undergoing higher medical training in gastroenterology. Further details of the course and applications for the bursaries (including a CV) should be made to Dr D P Jewell, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford OX2 6HE.

International Symposium on the Immunology of the Gastrointestinal Tract and the Liver

This symposium will be held at the Laromme Hotel, Jerusalem, Israel from 22–27 March, 1987. Further details from International Ltd, 12, Shlomzion Hamalka Street, Jerusalem 94 146, Israel, quoting the title of the symposium.

Fifth Annual Hawaii Conference on Gastrointestinal and Hepatic Diseases

This conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Maui, Hawaii from 26–30 January, 1987. Further information from Dr G Glober, Gastro '87, 1380 Lusitana Street, no 701, Honolulu, Hawaii.

International Symposium on Vasopressin Analogs and Portal Hypertension

This symposium will take place at the Montparnasse Park Hotel, Paris on 10 April 1987. Further details from Laboratories Ferring SA, Sophie Battarel, 7, rue des Cordelièrures, Paris, France.

Fifth Course in Hepatobiliary Surgery

This course will be held at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London from 10–14 November 1986. Details from the School Office, RPMS, Ducane Road, London, W12 OHS.