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Gut publishes original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in gastroenterology. The field is that of basic science and physiology pertaining to the alimentary tract, the liver and pancreas and that of alimentary, hepatic, biliary or pancreatic disease. Papers may deal with medical, surgical, or epidemiological aspects or with imaging. 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 the manuscript and figures should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK. 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 title page 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 200 word summary must head the paper. Excessive use of abbreviations is discouraged. Papers are accepted only on the written understanding, signed by all authors, that the data have not been published elsewhere in whole or in part and that all the authors agree to publication in *Gut*; previous publication in abstract form must be disclosed in a footnote. Papers must not be published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard, or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. *Diagrams* These will usually be reduced to 2/4 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 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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much of the information is not available in routinely published medical journals.

R J EARLAM

Inflammatory bowel disease Edited by G Jarnerot. (Pp. 182; illustrated; \$66.) New York: Raven Press, 1987.

Berzelius was a distinguished biochemist in whose honour the Swedish Society of Medicine brought together in 1986 a group of well known investigators all keenly interested in the aetiology of inflammatory bowel disease. This edited volume of the papers presented at that meeting provides an excellent summary of each person's contribution to knowledge as part of a well referenced review. It was appropriate that chemical studies were well represented by studies on mucin glycoproteins, eicosanoids, and the possible role of aluminium as an environmental factor. All disciplines contributed, however, epidemiology, genetics, immunopathology, immunology and microbiology. The possible role of several environmental factors was explored such as smoking, diet and the contraceptive pill. A commentary on classification of these disorders emphasising their common features and summaries of recent and potential advances in treatment completes the text. The book is compact, lucid, and well illustrated.

Dr Jarnerot is to be congratulated on organising such a stimulating meeting and on editing so well a comprehensive readable review. The book can be recommended to all who wish to bring themselves up to date on a rapidly advancing subject.

J E LENNARD-JONES

Manual of gastroenterology By B T Cooper, M J Hall, and R E Barry. (Pp. 171; illustrated; £9.95.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

This is another handbook on diagnosis, management and treatment of medical gastroenterology. I would like the next edition to start with a chapter on the supreme importance of listening to the patient, then amplifying the history by selective questions, and how most diagnoses are made by history, some by signs, and only a few by tests. Yes, 'It is vital to find exactly what the patient means by constipation', but why define diarrhoea by 'stool consistency not stool frequency'? Should not doctors be told to ask patients with diarrhoea about alcohol consumption and sexual orientation and practices?

Six chapters on symptoms have a dated air, as if there was no science of decision making. We are told 50 causes of gastrointestinal bleeding, but not their relative frequency, nor which questions and answers are the most selective in favouring or excluding a

specific diagnosis, let alone any algorithms. Ought not a proctoscope be used to look for haemorrhoids?

Part 2 covers seven groups of diseases, with spelling such as bethanicol and stuperose. H₂ blockers are still given many times a day instead of each evening. Yes, in Mallory-Weiss syndrome 'the history may be typical', but what are the key features? Part 3 discusses malnutrition and enteral and parenteral nutritional support.

Doctors use various techniques in learning their craft. Some consult one of the many standard detailed textbooks. Those who prefer brisk handbooks in note form will find this useful if they buy it.

J H BARON

Books received

Gastrointestinal cytoprotection by prostaglandins. Edited by G Bianchi Porro and E Z Dajani. (Pp. 46; illustrated; \$36.00.) Verona: Cortina International, 1987.

Topics in peptic ulcer disease. Edited by G Bianchi Porro and K D Bardhan. (Pp. 188; illustrated; \$54.50.) Verona: Cortina International, 1987.

Operative ultrasound of the liver and biliary ducts. By H Bismuth and D Castaing. (Pp. 89; illustrated; DM 68.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1987.

1987 Year book of endocrinology. Edited by J D Bagdade. (Pp. 419; illustrated; £38.00.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications, 1987.

A colour atlas of allergy. By W F Jackson and R Cerio. (Pp. 126; illustrated; £35.00.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications, 1987.

Paediatric data interpretation. By J Walter, S Lenton, and C M Gabriel. (Pp. 189; illustrated; £7.95.) London: Butterworths Scientific Limited, 1987.

Cryptosporidium sp. and other intestinal coccidia. By G C Cook. (Pp. 38; illustrated; £7.00.) London: Bureau of Hygiene & Tropical Diseases, 1987.

Small-bowel transplantation. Edited by E Deltz, A Thiede, and H Hamelmann. (Pp. 272; illustrated; DM 180.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1987.

Nutrition and feeding of preterm infants. Edited by H J Bremer, O G Brooke, M Orzalesi, G Putet, N C R Raiha, J Senterre, J C L Shaw and B A Wharton. (Pp. 238; illustrated; £29.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1987.

Gastric secretion: a physiological and pharmacological approach. Edited by R Cheli. (Pp. 127; illustrated; \$56.50.) New York: Raven Press, 1986.

Giornale Italiano di endoscopia digestiva: Italian Journal of Digestive Endoscopy. (Pp. 43; illustrated.) Italy: Cortina Reviews, 1987.

Surgical application of lasers. Edited by J A Dixon. (Pp. 376; illustrated; £45.50.) London: Wolfe Medical, 1987.

Allergy an international textbook. Edited by M H Lessof, T H Lee, and D M Kemmeny. (Pp. 655; illustrated; £65.00.) London: Wolfe Medical, 1987.

Peripheral vascular surgery. Edited by W C Lamberth and D B Doty. (Pp. 341; illustrated; £55.50.) London: Wolfe Medical, 1987.

Correction

Clinical and ultrastructural studies in duodenal pseudomelanosis. (*Gut* 1987; 28).

Unfortunately, there was an error in the colour plates for this article. The three colour plates next to the legend for Figure 1, p 1676 should be next to Figure 2 on p 1677. The three figures next to Figure 2 should be next to Figure 1. Also, in the legend of Figure 1a, case 6 should have been case 8. We apologise for this.

News

6th International Conference on Experimental Ulcer

This conference will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, from 28–31 August, 1988. Further details may be obtained from the Secretariat, 6th International Conference on Experimental Ulcer, POB50006, IL-61500 Tel-Aviv, Israel.

IASL-CASL

The International Association for the Study of the Liver and the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver are holding an international postgraduate course and meeting from 1–4 November, 1988, at the Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Canada. Further details from: Convention Consultants of Canada Ltd, 961 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4G 4B5.

Symposium on Nausea and Vomiting: a Multidisciplinary Perspective

This satellite symposium of the 1988 Society for Neuroscience meeting will be held from 12–13 November, 1988, in the Health Sciences Building, School of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Details may be obtained from: Dr R K Harding, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, University of Ottawa, 451 Smyth Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8M5, Canada.

Vith European Congress of Digestive Endoscopy

A pregress course on advanced techniques in digestive endoscopy will be held in Rome on 2 and 3 September, 1988. Registration forms are obtainable from: Congress Office, SC Studio Congressi, Via F Ferrara, 40, 00191 Roma, Italy.

C A Ewald Prize

The German Society of Gastroenterology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Verdauungs- und Stoffwechsellkrankheiten) announces the application for the C A Ewald Prize in 1988 for outstanding scientific work on the topic 'Pathogenesis of peptic ulcer disease'. The C A Ewald Prize amounts to DM 10000 and will be awarded to a scientist not older than 40 years of age. Further information from: Prof Dr Dr hc Werner Creutzfeldt, Direktor der Medizinischen Universitätsklinik, Robert-Koch-Str 40, D-3400 Göttingen, West Germany.