

enterologists for whom it is, at best, gallows humour. We are only too aware that what others may regard as the lighter and windier side of gastroenterology is, like it or not, our staple diet. It is at least comforting to know that our practitioner colleagues share the same perceptions (astigmatic, myopic, or merely blinkered?) of abdominal dissatisfaction; the difference is that they see patients within their social context. One message of this book is that in these matters, consultants are no cleverer than GPs, but are merely folk who can occasionally take a fresh look at an old problem. Another message is that GPs' letters do not do justice to their latent literary talent. A final thought is that GPs may be having more fun than we are. Anyway, much of the book is funny, and none of it is dull. It is a much easier read than the preceding pages of this journal but, perhaps, no less useful.

DAVID WINGATE

**Gastroesophageal reflux.** By Glyn G Jamieson and Andre Duranceau. (Pp. 281; illustrated; £31.) Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1988.

In general this book outlines fairly accurately the current position relating to the pathophysiology and management of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease. Although written largely by surgeons from two centres with an established reputation in the field, the medical aspects are adequately covered although the pharmacological treatment, particularly the limitations of H<sub>2</sub> receptor blockers in reflux disease and the clinical trials relating to the efficacy of these agents *versus* omeprazole, is rather sketchy.

Some of the chapters are excellent and reflect experience and accurate and mature interpretation of the reported literature. Others could have been grouped together as one substantive chapter relating to the complications of reflux. The account on the surgical treatment of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease whilst comprehensive and accurate in the descriptions of the various procedures, is rather overburdened with repeated accounts and tabulations of the reported data of various retrospective series without imparting a clear enough message, verdict or opinion. Perhaps I am biased in my belief that the results of antireflux surgery in the long term are not as good as surgeons generally believe. This aside, I would recommend the book for reading by medical and surgical postgraduates in gastroenterology.

A CUSCHĪRĪ

## News

### Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1990

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1990 Award. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years of less on 31 December 1990 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 of the Society at the University of Warwick in 1990. Applications (15 COPIES) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LB, BY 1 DECEMBER 1989.

### International Symposium on Esophageal Disease

To be held on 3–6 September, 1989 in Taormina, Sicily (Italy). Information from Prof Carmelo Scarpignato, Institute of Pharmacology, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Maggiore University Hospital, 43100 Parma, Italy. Tel: 39.521.290381-54641.

### 5th International Symposium of Digestive Surgery and Endoscopy

To be held in Rome from 11–14 October, 1989. Details from SC Studio Congressi srl, Via F Ferrara 40, 00191, Rome, Italy.

### International Course of Abdominal Doppler Ultrasound and Workshop on Hepatic Hemodynamics

To be held on 11 and 12 September, 1989 in Bologna, Italy. Information from Dr Luigi Bolondi, Policlinico S Orsola, Via Massarenti, 9, 40138 Bologna, Italy. Tel: (51) 392 738.

### Second European Meeting on Campylobacter Pylori and Gastroduodenal Pathology

To be held in Ulm, FRG on 11 and 12 October, 1989. Information from Dr P Malfertheiner, University of Ulm, Dept of Internal Medicine II, Rober-Koch-Str 8, 7900, Ulm, FRG. Tel: 0731-176-3742.

### 2nd International Conference on Gastrointestinal Cancer

To be held from 27 August to 1 September, 1989. Details may be obtained from The Secretariat, 2nd Int Conf on GI Cancer, PO Box 50066, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.