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Gut publishes original papers and reviews concerned with practice and clinical research in gastroenterology. The field includes the basic science, molecular biology, physiology and diseases of the alimentary tract, the liver and pancreas including epidemiological, medical, surgical, radiological or histopathological aspects. Case reports will only be accepted if of exceptional merit. Letters related to articles published in *Gut* or with topics of general professional interest are welcomed. Authors are encouraged to include the names and addresses of four experts whom the authors consider suitable to peer review their work.

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; i: 532-5. *Gut* 1979; 20: 651-2). They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. The title page should include the name of the author with initials or distinguishing first name only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. The paper must include a precise summary of the work of less than 200 words. Excessive use of abbreviation is discouraged. A covering letter signed by all authors must state that the data have not been published elsewhere in whole or in part and that all authors agree to publication in *Gut*. Previous publication in abstract form must be disclosed in a footnote. Papers must not be published elsewhere without prior permission of the Editorial Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will only be acknowledged if an addressed postcard is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text but marked on the back with the figure numbers, title of paper and name of author. All photographs, graphs, 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.

ETHICS Ethical aspects will be considered 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 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 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 longterm cimetidine. *Gut* 1979; 20: 123-4. **NB: Accurate punctuation is essential.**

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FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The World Congresses
of Gastroenterology

August 26th-31st, 1990

Sydney, Australia



 *9th Congress of Gastroenterology*

 *7th Congress of Digestive Endoscopy*

 *4th Congress of Colo-Proctology*

 For copies of the Final Announcement/Registration Forms, contact:
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SATELLITE MEETING

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

World Congress of Gastroenterology

Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September, 1990

The New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology will hold a two day meeting which will follow the Sydney World Congress of Gastroenterology.

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**Dr I Hamilton,
Convenor, NZ Satellite Meeting,
World Congress of Gastroenterology,
c/o Department of Medicine,
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University of Auckland, Private Bag,
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON: "SYSTEMIC AND REGIONAL HEMODYNAMICS IN LIVER DISEASES"

(I.B.M.I. Symposium n. 6)

3-5 June, 1990

Bari, Italy

Scientific committee:

O. Albano, M.D.

R. J. Groszmann, M.D.

K. J. W. Taylor, M.D., Ph.D.

For further information please contact

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Edited by M. W. SMITH and F. V. SEPULVEDA

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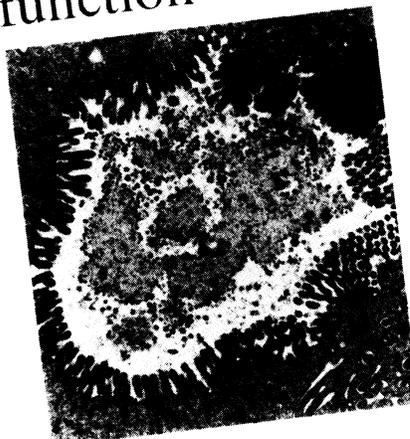
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Adaptation and development of gastrointestinal function



*Edited by
M. W. Smith and
F. V. Sepulveda*

BOOK REVIEWS

Campylobacter pylori and gastroduodenal disease. Edited by B J Rathbone and R V Heatley. (Pp 290; illustrated; price not stated.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1989.

The book comprises 34 chapters, by 48 authors. The first two chapters concern the background historical hypothetical connections between ulcers and bacterial infection and the bacterial flora of the stomach. There follows five chapters relating to the properties of the organism itself; six chapters describing techniques used for confirming the diagnosis of infection with *C pylori*; eight chapters summarising the relationship between infection with the organism and various upper abdominal diseases; four chapters discussing the vexed problem of the mode of infection; a further four regarding the treatment of *C pylori* and the effects of the treatment on the clinical outcome of the supposedly related diseases; four chapters about infections of animals, and finally, a chapter about future trends of research.

Most of the technical topics are discussed by experts and receive comprehensive and fair comment. On the other hand, the 'clinical' sections are not inspired. There is too much grinding of axes, rather than dispassionate review of the relationships between infection with *C pylori* and conditions such as gastritis and ulcers. The chapter by Hunt, however, discussing the association between hypochlorhydria and *C pylori* is interesting and constructive. There is also an interesting chapter on selfinfection with *C pylori* – pity that the studies were not carried out 'double blind'. Similarly, the chapters on therapy are competent compilations of the information linking treatment, clearing or eradication of the infection and improvement in the disease, but unfortunately do not address the possibility that the order of these events may be reversed – that is, that the therapy results in improvement in the disease and secondarily results in eradication of the organism by changing the condition for its growth. The main deficiency, therefore, is lack of a critical approach to the many outstanding and fundamental problems concerning the relevance of infection with *C pylori* to human disease. The book is a thoroughly competent and comprehensive review of the topic, however, and can be recommended as a source of basic information.

K G WORMSLEY

Diseases of the liver and biliary system. By Dame S Sherlock. (Pp 749; illustrated; £49.50.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1989.

Students of the liver throughout the world owe Dame Sheila Sherlock a great debt in many ways. By no means the least of her contribu-

tions has been the production of an outstanding textbook, first published in 1955 and now appearing in its eighth edition. Although only four years have elapsed since the previous edition, the book has been radically revised and substantially enlarged to accommodate the considerable recent advances in hepatology. In addition there have been notable changes in the presentation. Tabular illustrations have been increased in number and their legibility has been enhanced by the blue and white style in which they are now presented. Colour illustrations are used sparingly but appropriately, while the text is slightly more discursive.

This book is essential for any practising gastroenterologist who seeks to care for patients with liver disease. Although undergraduates and even MRCP students may find sufficient information in the liver sections of general gastroenterology textbooks, both the quality and quantity of advice and information offered here makes it an essential text for the clinician. Our knowledge of the liver is progressing too rapidly for old editions to suffice for long. Even the specialist hepatologist who may prefer to rely on one of the larger (and more expensive) hepatology textbooks would do well to consider this book because the uniformity of style, the extensive up-to-date references, and the vast experience of the author have much to offer.

May we hope that the continuing advances in liver disease will be marked by a ninth edition of this masterpiece in due course?

D R TRIGER

Gastrointestinal secretion. By J S Davison. (Pp 254; illustrated; £45.) London: Wright, 1989.

The stated objective of this volume is to provide a text book intermediate between a general text book of physiology and a collection of specialist review articles on the topics under consideration. In practice the format tends toward the latter style but for the potential customer this probably doesn't matter. The problem of reviewing a book such as this is that the reviewer will in general have detailed knowledge of perhaps only one or two of the subjects addressed and hence is likely to be more critical of these than the other chapters. Thus, I feel that the balance of the chapters in terms of length and depth of consideration of the subject matter is somewhat inconsistent. The control of gastric secretion is afforded only 13 pages compared with 31 on hepatobiliary secretion. Does this reflect our state of knowledge or the complexity of the subject? Possibly, but a chapter on gastric secretion which dismisses pepsin secretion in a single paragraph and intrinsic factor in a sentence might be considered a little thin.

The introductory chapters on principles of ion and water transport, stimulus secretion coupling and macromolecular synthesis, storage and secretion are excellent although the last may seem a little forbidding to the average student and its relevance specifically to gastrointestinal secretion could have been more emphasised. Similarly mucus and pancreatic

and intestinal secretion are well addressed and I particularly liked the chapter relating motility and secretion. The text is extremely well laid out, the diagrams clear and informative and typographical errors rare, although I would like to know what goes on in the Liverpool University MRC *Secretary* Control Group.

I found the differences in the methods of referencing the chapters mildly irritating, some having a full reference list numbered in the text, whereas others provided a bibliography which is not even referred to in the text. In general, however, despite some minor criticisms this is a book which fills a gap and has the claimed virtues of clarity and approachability. Whether, at a price of £45, it attracts its potential customers remains to be seen.

M E PARSONS

Baillière's Clinical Gastroenterology. Vol 3 Jaundice. Edited by I A D Bouchier (Pp 510; illustrated; £18.50.) London: Baillière Tindall 1989.

This book is one of a series devoted to gastroenterological topics. The choice, this time, is jaundice, and the authors are international. The topics covered are timely. Coverage varies from the simplistic (at the level of a student text book of general medicine) to the sophisticated mathematics of the pharmacokinetics of bilirubin disposition. There is a tendency to overlap, the clinical features of Gilbert's syndrome, for instance, are described in four chapters (numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4), and this might have been avoided by careful editing. The chapter on Gilbert's syndrome by K J R Watson and J L Gollan does include a most interesting historical account of Gilbert, together with his photograph taken in 1982, which I had certainly never seen. The chapter by P C Hayes and I A D Bouchier on postoperative jaundice is excellent, and includes much material not generally recognised.

The volume is dated April 1989 but, with few exceptions, the literature covered stops at 1987. For the serious hepatologist it cannot be a substitute for an up to the minute literature search. It will, however, be useful for a gastroenterology trainee preparing for higher exams or anyone faced with a jaundiced patient where the cause and mechanisms are uncertain.

Presentation is excellent, the figures clear, and the price is very reasonable.

SHEILA SHERLOCK

NOTES

5th European Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility

To be held from 13–16 June, 1990, in Augsburg/Bavaria. For further information please contact Prof M Wienbeck, Dept of Internal Medicine III, Zentralklinikum, D-8900 Augsburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

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