Ultrasound histamine demonstration in enterochromaffin-like cells in gastric granules on human fundus biopsy sections. The 5 nm gold particles are located in the electron dense granules and inside a typical vacuolated granule (original magnification ×6010).

Reply

Sm.—Dr Delwaide and colleagues have with this report further confirmed that the enterochromaffin-like cells of the human fundus indeed contain histamine. In the human gastric mucosa these cells are confined to the oxyntic gland area, which also presents a higher histidine decarboxylase activity than the non-
acid producing pyloric gland region. Patients with hypergastrinaemia of different origin also have a higher histidine decarboxylase activity together with an increased density of entero-
chromaffin-like cells in the oxyntic gland area.4,5 In addition, pentagastrin infusion is followed by a release of histamine and by a substantial increase in histidine decarboxylase activity in the oxyntic gland mucosa of healthy volunteers. These pentagastrin induced events do not occur in the pyloric gland region.6

In conclusion, all this circumstantial evidence together with the results presented by Dr Delwaide and colleagues favour the view that the enterochromaffin like cells of the human stomach store histamine, release the amine on proper stimulation, and have the capacity to synthesise histamine.

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BOOK REVIEWS


Although secretory diarrhoea is not everyone's cup of tea, I approached this book with some

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