

Gut

*Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology which
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The laparoscopic colour photographs are poor in some instances and seem to be taken from the VDU screen rather than by direct photographs down the laparoscope. If the surgeon's view is as poor as some of these pictures, he would be well advised to abandon the procedure!

The claim in the promotional advertisement that the book 'leads you step by step through each operation so that you can perform these new procedures' could be quite dangerous for anything but cholecystectomy. The section on cholecystectomy, is detailed, and the pros and cons of various techniques are discussed. There is a strong emphasis on the use of disposable equipment, which makes the operations very costly. There is a useful section on how to deal with adhesions; safety aspects are carefully discussed. There is a short section on the techniques for operative cholangiography and a short account of exploring the common bile duct laparoscopically.

It is natural to compare this volume with other books on laparoscopic biliary surgery, and it does not compare favourably. It would have been better to have restricted the subject to biliary surgery and to have expanded on this and to have improved the illustrations and then it would have been a very acceptable guide. It is moderately expensive.

A G JOHNSON

Inflammatory Bowel Disease. By John Lennard-Jones, Sidney Truelove, eds. (Pp 593; SWK420.) Malmö: Corona Astra, 1992.

This is a useful multidisciplinary review of the current state of play in inflammatory bowel disease. It is of more recent vintage than established books on the subject; the sections on the role of inflammatory mediators, and glycoproteins in particular, are more up to date. The first four chapters discuss the epidemiology and genetics of inflammatory bowel disease followed by a superficial treatment of the role of factors such as smoking. Immunological and other pathogenetic mechanisms such as change in intestinal permeability and mucin glycoproteins are discussed in greater detail in the next five chapters.

The latter two chapters of the book consider clinical issues. Infectious conditions are covered briefly and although AIDS related conditions are covered I would have liked to have seen more emphasis on this important topic. Successive chapters on the medical and surgical management of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease respectively cover all important management issues. The editors have worked hard to avoid repetition; I particularly liked the separate chapters on the role of steroids, salicylates, and immunosuppressive agents, which precede sections on overall medical management of inflammatory bowel disease.

The overall balance of the book is good and all areas of the clinical science and management of inflammatory bowel disease are covered adequately. I must admit to differ with another reviewer of this book who said 'Forgive the pun but I feel this book falls between two stools' and

that the limiting of the size of the book to a 'reasonably compact volume' had led to the sacrificing of detailed references and full discussion of therapeutic issues. I feel that the book's balance is about right but (as with most up to date textbooks) its currency would not last more than five years.

C J HAWKEY

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NOTES

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1994

Applications are invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1994 Award. Applications (**Fifteen copies**) should include:

(1) A manuscript (2 A4 pages *only*) describing the work conducted.

(2) A bibliography of relevant personal publications.

(3) An outline of the proposed content of the lecture, including title.

(4) A written statement confirming that all or a substantial part of the work has been personally conducted in the United Kingdom or Eire.

Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1994 but need not be a member of the BSG. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Spring Meeting of the Society in 1994. Applications (**Fifteen copies**) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB by 1 December 1993.

International Congress on Gastroenterology

The Congresso Nazionale di Gastroenterologia will be held in Padua, Italy on 11-15 December 1993. Further information from the Organisation Secretariat, OIC, srl, Via A La Marmora 24, 50121 Florence, Italy.

Interventional Ultrasound

The 6th International Congress on Interventional Ultrasound will be held on 7-10 September 1993 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Further information from: Christian Nolsøe, Congress Secretary, Department of Ultrasound, Herlev Hospital, University of Copenhagen, DK-2730 Herlev, Denmark. Tel: 44 53 53 00 extn 3240; fax: 44 94 80 09.

Dysphagia Research Society

The Second Annual Scientific Meeting of the Dysphagia Research Society will be held on 22-24 October 1993 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Further information from: Dysphagia Research Society, Administrative Office, GI Section/111C, VA Medical Center, 5000 West National Ave, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53295, USA. Tel: 414 384-2000 extn 6943; fax: 414 384-8480.

The European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)

The 28th meeting will be held in Paris on 1-4 September 1993. Further information from: Dr P L M Jansen, Secretary of EASL, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Academic Medical Center, Meibergdreef 9, NL 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 31 20 5663632; fax: 31 20 6917033.

Colorectal Disease

An educational programme on Colorectal Disease in 1994: an International Exchange of Medical and Surgical Concepts will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 24-26 February 1994. Further information from: The Cleveland Clinic Educational Foundation, Department of Continuing Education, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Room TT-31, Cleveland, OH 44195-5241, USA. Tel: 216-444-5696 (local); 800-762-8173 (other); fax: 216-445-9406.

Endoscopic Ultrasonography

The 9th International Symposium on Endoscopic Ultrasonography will be held in Bologna, Italy on 28-29 November 1993. Further information from: Professor Giancarlo Caletti, Istituto di Clinica Medica e Gastroenterologia, Università degli Studi di Bologna, Policlinico S Orsola, Via Massarenti 9, 40138 Bologna, Italy. Tel: 51 307224; fax: 51 305430.

Liver Diseases

An international symposium on Frontiers in Transplantation and Medical Treatment of Liver Diseases will be held in Hamburg on 10-11 September 1993. Further information: MasterMedia GmbH, Ms Marion Schemnitzer, Bodelschwingerstr 17, D 2000 Hamburg 63, Germany. Tel: 40 50 71 13-46; fax: 40 59 18 45.

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Gut publishes original papers, leading articles, and reviews concerned with all aspects of the scientific basis of diseases of the alimentary tract, liver, and pancreas. 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 should include the names and addresses of four experts whom the authors consider suitable to peer review their work.

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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 *BMJ* 1964; ii: 177)).

SI UNITS All measurements except blood pressure are expressed in SI units. In tables and illustrations values are given in SI units. 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.

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