

Gut

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Consequently, growing older, educational standard, and social habits could participate in atrophic gastritis but not in the same way as for the acquisition of *H pylori*.

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- Mitchell HM, Lee A, Carrick J. Increased incidence of *Campylobacter pylori* infection in gastroenterologists: further evidence to support person-to-person transmission of *Campylobacter pylori*. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 1989; 24: 396-400.
- Bayerdorffer E, Oertel H, Lehn N, Kasper G, Mannes GA, Sauerbruch T, et al. Topographic association between active gastritis and *Campylobacter pylori* colonisation. *J Clin Pathol* 1989; 42: 834-9.
- Heresbach D, Raoul JL, Bretagne JF, Minet J, Donio PY, Ramee MP, et al. *Helicobacter pylori*: a risk and severity factor of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug induced gastropathy. *Gut* 1992; 33: 1608-11.

BOOK REVIEW

Diseases of the Gut and Pancreas. Edited by J J Misiewicz, R E Pounder, C W Venables. 2nd ed. (Pp 1160; illustrated; £99.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1994.

The evolving relationship between a gastroenterologist who has acquired a new textbook can be compared with a car owner and his new car. Both objects look bright and new at the beginning. It is a different and interesting experience to 'get into them' but, quite soon, the novelty wears off. Occasionally, when they are particularly needed, either can let you down.

With textbooks, it is perhaps a little unfair to come to a hurried judgment on a first edition. Indeed, there may be a case for sparing detailed critical attention until the second edition has come along. If the textbook is not up to scratch, it will not actually reach a second edition but, by the time a revised version does hit the market, authors and editors will have had an opportunity to refine the product.

I had a copy of the first edition of this book and, judging by its rather osteoporotic spine, I seem to have used it quite a lot. It was certainly unique on my bookshelf in being the only substantial textbook of gastroenterology that could be easily held and read in the hand. Its length and breadth were barely larger than the original size of this journal (deceased 1989). The second edition has grown in length and breadth (about the dimensions of the modern *Gut* - 1990 onwards) and has slightly contracted in width. How good is this new model?

It is very much a textbook of clinical gastroenterology, as its title would imply. Furthermore, it is emphatically in a single volume, and I have to say it is my strong personal view that it is very much a frustration of modern life to have to read multi-author chapters in multi-editor texts that come in multiple volumes. The growth of knowledge is inexorable, but it is good to see this matched by editorial excellence, which makes the book both readable and undaunting. For example, the whole of inflammatory bowel disease is covered in 90 pages with ulcerative

and Crohn's disease, each having three chapters on their clinical features, medical management, and surgery respectively. I have not seen the clinical aspects of inflammatory bowel disease covered so well given this sort of space constraint, but there is necessarily some sacrifice of detail, particularly the pathogenesis (especially immunology) of these conditions. One accepts that a single volume will inevitably concentrate on the most clinically relevant areas but, since its first edition, there has been a really substantial expansion in the number of references for each chapter with almost all increasing by at least half and, in many cases, doubling.

The publisher has served the authors and editors really well. The various hierarchies of headings and subheadings are very easy on the eye. The figures and tables are beautifully produced and the x rays are compellingly clear. As usual, black and white histology is disappointing and it seems curious that there are so many photographs of extremely thin, naked people. Sadly, gastrointestinal disease may cause patients to become thin and I am not sure how much is gained from reminding us of this so visually.

Inevitably, any reviewer will find 'highs' and 'lows'. I have already mentioned my liking of the section on inflammatory bowel disease, but I also enjoyed the chapter on nutrition. The section entitled 'Colonic Polyps' was a little disappointing. This is surely an area of keen interest for gastroenterologists. The table of polyposis syndrome made no mention of hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer or Lynch syndrome. Perhaps a detailed discussion of molecular genetics was outside the scope of the book, but I think this most exciting area of gastrointestinal research could have merited a few lines. By contrast, the immunogenetics of coeliac disease is discussed but, in this otherwise very readable chapter, it is surprising to find no discussion of the widening spectrum of the condition.

This is an excellent book. It is written by practising clinicians for practising clinicians and, as such, is not surpassed.

IAN FORGACS

NOTES

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1995

Applications are invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1995 Award. Applications (**fifteen copies**) should include:

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

(2) A bibliography of relevant personal publications.

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Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1995 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 1995. Applications (**fifteen copies**) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB by 1 December 1994.

Gastroenterology and liver disease

The 20th anniversary of Annual Topics in Gastroenterology and Liver Disease will be held on 5-7 October 1994 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Further information from: Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Office of Continuing Education, Turner Building, 720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, USA. Tel: 410 955-2959.

Gastrointestinal motility

The Eighth Biennial Meeting of the American Motility Society will be held on 20-23 October 1994 at Wintergreen Resort, Wintergreen, Virginia, USA. For further information contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education, Box 368, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Charlottesville, Virginia 22908, USA. Tel: 804 924 5310.

Liver diseases

The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases will hold a series of meetings during November 1994 in Chicago, USA. Further information on these meetings is available from: AASLD, Registration Manager, 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, NJ 08086, USA. Tel: 609 848 1000, extn 213.

Pancreatic diseases

The Combined Meeting of the International Association of Pancreatology and American Pancreatic Association will be held on 2-4 November 1994 in Chicago, USA. Further information from: Linda Bakken, GI Unit 2-424, Mayo Clinic, 200 1st Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905, USA. Tel: 507 255 4303; fax: 507 255 6318.

Therapeutic endoscopy

The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Society of Digestive Endoscopy will hold the Ninth International Workshop on Therapeutic Endoscopy on 6-8 December 1994 in Hong Kong. Further information from: Dr Sydney Chung, Endoscopy Centre, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong. Tel: 852 636 2233; fax: 852 635 0075.

Correction

An authors' error occurred in the paper by Dr I A Finnie *et al* (*Gut* 1993; 34: 1552-8). The units of metabolism for butyrate and for glutamine throughout the paper should have been nmol substrate metabolised/h/mg protein and not, nmol/h/ μ g protein as stated. The ratios for butyrate/glutamine metabolism, the statistical analysis, and the conclusions remain unchanged.

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Gut publishes original papers, short rapid communications, 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.**

REFERENCES These follow the Vancouver system - that is, references numbered consecutively in the text and listed numerically with journal titles abbreviated in the style of *Index Medicus*, *Standard journal article*. List up to six authors, then add *et al.*

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