

## Notes and activities

### BSG Autumn Meeting, York

The autumn meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held in York on 22-24 September under the Presidency of Dr. Geoffrey Watkinson. The meeting was a most successful one and clearly the President's intimate knowledge of York and his great attention to detail ensured its exceptionally high standard. The campus of the York University was a fine setting and local historical places provided great interest and variety for the social programme. The meeting with over 850 registrations was a record one. The scientific programme maintained an admirable clinical balance. The Sir Arthur Hurst memorial lecture was given by Dr. John Fordtran (USA) on 'Food and acid secretion'. The meeting merged with the programme of the British Society for Digestive Endoscopy and was preceded by an excellent Teaching Day.

The BSG Guild Hall Reception and the dinner at the Assembly Rooms together formed a memorable occasion. The new President, Dr. W. Sircus, was felicitously installed. The after-dinner visit to the National Railway Museum was an exceptionally fascinating experience and made even more enjoyable by the performance of the Prize Silver Band. At the business meeting Professor Sheila Sherlock was appointed the Sir Arthur Hurst lecturer for 1978 and Professor C. Booth as President Elect. The Training and Education Committee (Chairman, Dr. Nelson Coghill) reported much continuing activity. Dr. Coghill has been an exceptionally active chairman and his contributions to the Society have been greatly appreciated.

The Society appeared to be embarrassed by the present happy state of its finances but warning voices urged careful planning and no sudden changes. The most important decision related to the merging of the British Society of Digestive Endoscopy with the BSG. Dr. M. Atkinson was elected BSG Vice-President (Endoscopy).

### British Society for Digestive Endoscopy

The BSDE meeting at York held in conjunction with the British Society of Gastroenterology proved highly successful. A full programme was laid on of free papers and symposia, which proved most popular.

The Annual Foundation Lecture was given by Dr Peter Cotton, who described his experience and development of research, investigative and therapeutic techniques involving the papilla of Vater and the pancreatic and biliary duct systems.

In the afternoon two symposia were held: one on therapeutic endoscopy (Chairman: Dr M. Atkinson) in which the therapy of oesophageal strictures (benign and malignant), polypectomy, and injection of oesophageal varices was discussed. The other symposium (Chairman: Dr W. Sircus) looked at new developments in investigating patients, considering double contrast radiology, developments in the field of endoscopy, computer analysis of results, and nuclear medicine techniques.

The results of the second survey of members into the practice of endoscopy in the UK were also presented to the Society on the following day. These will subsequently be published in more detail.

At the Annual Business Meeting the new President, Dr Michael Atkinson, was elected and the Secretary Elect, Dr Roy Cockel, took office.

The next Training Meeting of the Society will be held at the Royal Free Hospital, London on 20 and 21 April 1978. The Local Secretary will be Dr Derek Jewell. This is planned as a training course in all aspects of endoscopy and will last for two full days with teaching models, films, and demonstrations. Enquiries should be addressed to Dr Jewell.

D.G.C.J.

### First International Congress on Colonoscopy and Diseases of the Large Bowel

This congress will be held from 2 to 4 March 1978 at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida. More than 80 papers, numerous panels, endoscopic movies, and demonstrations will be presented by a faculty of 12 speakers, including Walter Gaisford, Hiromi Shinya, Jerry Waye, and Christopher Williams. Anyone wishing to attend, present papers or movies, please write to Dr. John P. Christie, 7400 North Kendall Drive, Suite 311, South Miami, Florida 33156, USA. (Telephone: (305) 270-1346.)

### Residential Course: Toulouse

A residential course on gastroenterology

will be held at the CHU de Rangueil, 6-11 March 1978. The course is intended only for experienced foreign gastroenterologists. The fee is 2000 FF and applicants should apply to Pr. A. Ribet, Service des Maladies de l'Appareil Digestif, CHU de Rangueil, 31062 Toulouse Cedex, France, by 31 December 1977.

## Books

**Gastrointestinal Physiology II.** Edited by Robert K. Crane. **International Reviews of Physiology, Volume 12** (Series Editor Arthur C. Guyton). (Pp. 371 + ix. Illustrated. £15.95). University Park Press, Baltimore, London, Tokyo: 1977.

A new book in this distinguished series is an eagerly-awaited event, and the example reviewed here is worthy of its place. This new publication on gastrointestinal physiology contains 11 separate chapters written by a total of 18 distinguished contributors. The flavour is international: the chapter on circulation comes from Sweden, on motility from Bulgaria, on the exocrine pancreas from France, and so on. In such company, it is a pleasure to note S. R. Bloom's contribution on gastrointestinal hormones from our own country.

Most chapters are 10 000-20 000 words long, and provide a wealth of references. Some authors have concentrated on reviewing published work, while others have interpreted their brief as including commentary and forecasting of future advances. Topics covered, other than those already mentioned, include several that might have been expected, such as gastric secretion, biliary secretion, and intestinal absorption (including a superb analysis by the book's editor of the digestion and absorption of water-soluble organics), but also some that tread less well-worn paths such as the Australian review of the morphology and physiology of the salivary myoepithelial cells.

This book is compulsory reading for physiologists working or teaching and for clinicians with a research programme in these fields.

M. HOBBS