

SUMMARY

Biopsies of the mucosa of the small intestine of 22 patients were subjected to light and electron microscopic studies. The patients were grouped into 'controls', coeliac disease, and idiopathic steatorrhoea, and in the last two groups the clinical condition and therapeutic progress was recorded. Electron microscopic studies were directed mainly towards the microvilli of the surface epithelium. It was found that the latter were decreased in height in coeliac disease and idiopathic steatorrhoea and showed greater irregularity in shape and spacing. A good correlation existed between the light microscope appearances of villous atrophy and decrease in surface cell height and the electron microscope findings of microvillous abnormalities.

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CORRECTION

In Table I of the paper entitled 'A clinical appraisal of the treatment of chronic duodenal ulcer by vagotomy and gastric drainage operation' by W. Gerald Austen and Harold C. Edwards on page 158 of the June issues, the word 'pyloroplasty' has been incorrectly repeated. The relevant line of Table I should read:—

Type of operation performed with vagotomy	
Gastroenterostomy	90
Pyloroplasty	10