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In Fybogel, the fibre is presented as a palatable drink—the granules disperse easily in water. Two sachets daily, taken after meals, is the dosage usually required to restore normal intra-colonic pressure and treat diverticular disease.

1 Postgrad. Med. J. (October 1974) 50, 629.

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THE LIQUORICE STORY

Part 2

The liquorice plant is a leguminous shrub which grows to a height of several feet. It sends down a tap root, and develops a veritable thicket of runners, which may be 25 ft. long, so when the root is dug it is not eradicated, and enough runners remain to carry on propagation and produce another crop several years later.

In its normal habitation the foliage on the stems resemble that of an ash twig, and in colour and texture they more closely resemble small laburnum leaves and are mauve in colour.

However, in Pontefract the plant rarely flowered and only once in the present century were seed pods produced, which showed signs that it was growing beyond its natural limits.

After the root has been lifted, the extract of the liquorice is obtained by shredding or grinding the root in hot water, followed by evaporation of the solution, and both the spent liquorice and the extract are used for several purposes.

The by product of liquorice has been used as the main ingredient in foam fire extinguishers. Another use is in the cultivation of mushrooms, as well as in the making of insulation board.

There are three main uses for the liquorice extract. The first is in the Tobacco Industry, especially in America, where it is used in the production of chewing tobacco as well as in ordinary tobacco.

The second and most commonly known use is in the Confectionery Industry, and the third and most important is in pharmaceuticals.

Liquorice has been widely used as a flavouring agent for other drugs. However, over recent years it has been realised that liquorice has a powerful antispasmodic effect on the muscles of the stomach and intestine. There was however, a serious disadvantage which was the constituent glycyrrhizinic acid. This can cause side effects such as oedema (salt and water retention and potassium depletion) as well as other harmful side effects. Cedona Pharmaceuticals in Holland investigated the problem, and developed an exclusive method of extracting the harmful glycyrrhizinic acid, but retaining its ulcer healing properties together with its natural antispasmodic effect. When glycyrrhizinic acid is removed by other methods the spasmolytic effect and healing



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properties are lost. The main constituent of Caved-(S) is the liquorice, which is processed by the exclusive Cedona method. Therefore, Caved-(S) tablets retain the ulcer healing properties, without the side effects normally associated with liquorice.

In the next instalment we will give details of new scientific work carried out on Caved-(S) liquorice, and also details of an exciting project with regard to liquorice in England.

**From the Information Department,
Tillett's Laboratories, U.K. Distributors for
Caved-(S) tablets.**

INTESTINAL ABSORPTION IN MAN

edited by Ian McColl

Department of Surgery, Guy's Hospital, London, England

and G. E. Sladen

University Department of Medicine, Royal Hospital, Sheffield, England

August/September 1975, x+364 pp., £11.00/\$29.00

0.12.482150.2

This book is a collection of essays on various aspects of intestinal absorption in man. Although the emphasis is on human studies, reference to animal work is included particularly where data on human intestinal absorption is scanty or unavailable. The book is not intended to be a comprehensive review, and the absorption of folate and vitamin B12 has been omitted altogether.

This book should be of value to the gastro-enterologist wishing to keep abreast of developments in the physiology and pathophysiology of absorption and also to the research worker who requires a general view of the subject. Its value as a general source of reference will also extend to all those working for higher medical or surgical diplomas and to those studying and teaching in departments of physiology.

CONTENTS

G. E. Sladen: Methods of studying intestinal absorption in man

G. E. Sladen: Absorption of fluid and electrolyte in health and disease

H. B. McMichael: Absorption of carbohydrates

M. D. Hellier and C. D. Holdsworth: Digestion and absorption of proteins

M. L. Clark and J. T. Harries: Absorption of lipids

C. D. Holdsworth: Calcium absorption in man

B. Brozovic: Absorption of iron

Ian M. Coupar and Ian McColl: The pharmacology of absorption

Author index

Subject index

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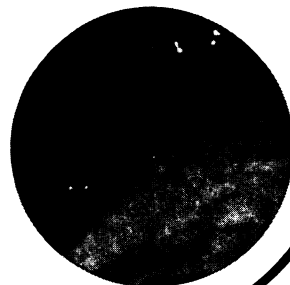
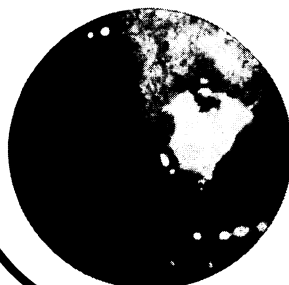
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1. Lancer (1974) i, 109.

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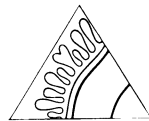
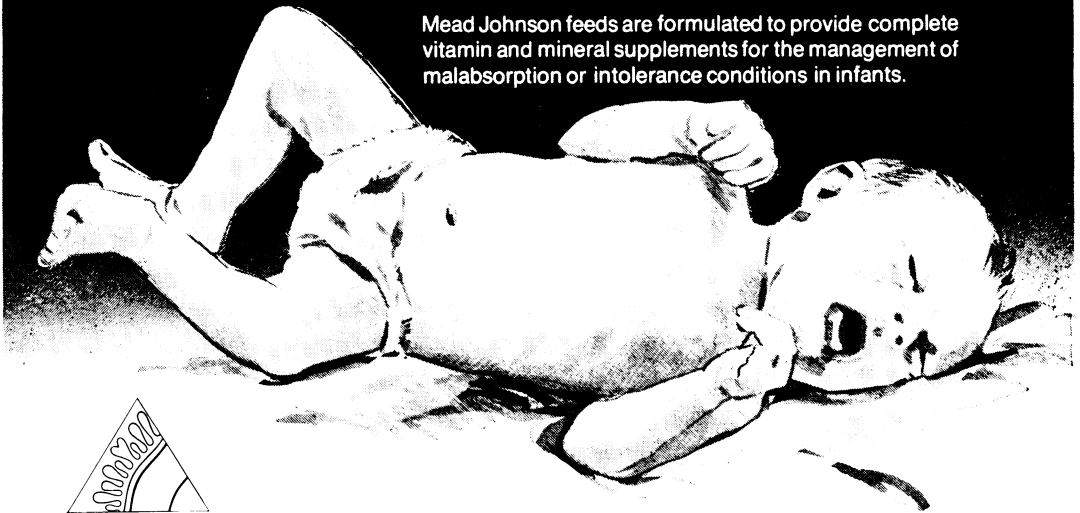
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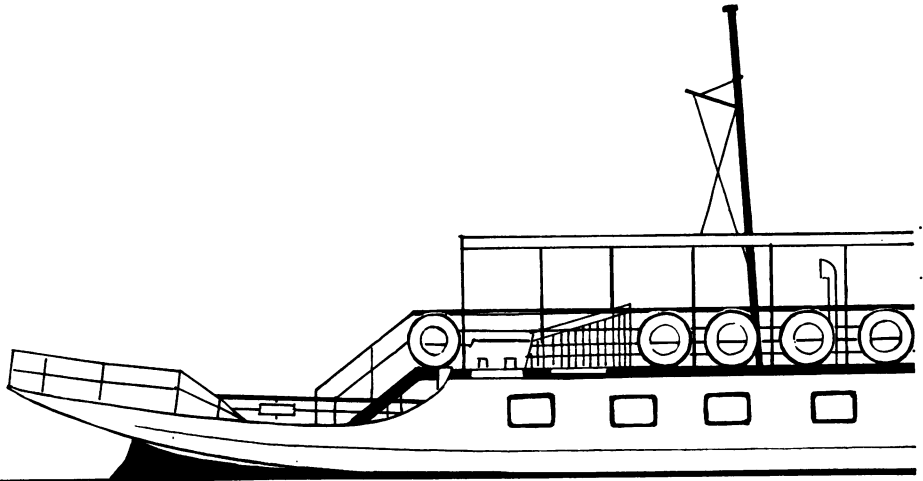
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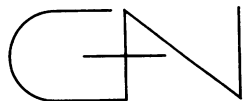
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