

## Notes and activities

### Congresses in Budapest

The 10th International Congress of Gastroenterology was held in Budapest from 23-29 June, and was followed by the 3rd European Congress of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Professor V. Varro was a most felicitous President, with Dr G. Pronay as Secretary, and both are to be congratulated on the success of the meeting. The first surprise was the delightful ballet 'Scheherazade' which followed immediately and unexpectedly the formal opening of the congress. Other surprises included the ample and decorative accommodation in the Hungarian National Gallery and the excellence of the social programme, with special gastronomic highlights. The scientific programme included 36 symposia, panel conferences, and quadrennial reviews. These reviews, which were published in time for the meeting, have become established as a most successful key feature of the congresses. The 970 short papers saturated the accommodation, but there was much of interest for the energetic and selective members of the congress. Perhaps display panels could be used as a partial alternative to short papers in future meetings.

### Sixth International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility

The Sixth International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility will meet at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Scotland, on 12-16 September 1977. The theme will be 'Gastrointestinal motility in health and disease' with sessions on mechanisms of abdominal pain, effect of diet on motility, regulatory factors in gastrointestinal motility, and relaxation oscillator modelling. Abstracts of reports dealing with basic and clinical aspects of gastrointestinal motility will be considered for presentation by an International Programme Committee. The abstracts should not exceed 300 words. Time and facilities will allow no more than 100 participants. Advance registration is required. Submit abstracts and requests to attend by 1 April 1977 to: Programme Committee, Sixth International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility, University Surgical Unit, Royal Infirmary, Sheffield S6 3DA, Yorks., England.

### Nottingham Course in Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology

This course, jointly sponsored by the BSGE and ACP, is designed for consultant pathologists and senior registrars or lecturers holding the final MRCPATH. It will be held in the new Medical School and the General Hospital in Nottingham from 4-7 January 1977 inclusive. The fee for the course will be £30. Its aim is to give as much practical experience in gastrointestinal and liver pathology as possible. It will include talks and discussions on the preparation, handling, and reporting of biopsies and larger specimens, as well as slide seminars and quiz programmes. Microscopes will be provided. Residential accommodation will be available and numbers will be limited to a maximum of 10 allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications to: Professor I. M. P. Dawson, Pathology Department, University of Nottingham, University Park Nottingham NG7 2RD.

### Residential Course in Liver Disease

The major diagnostic, therapeutic, and research aspects of liver disease will be covered in lectures, ward rounds, tutorials, and seminars at a residential course to be held in the Liver Unit of King's College Hospital, London, from 20-24 December 1976. The fee for the course is £100, including residence, and the closing date for applications is 18 October 1976. The course is approved under the Department of Health's Advanced Postgraduate Training Scheme, which may finance study leave for senior doctors working in the NHS in England and Wales. Further details and application forms from the Deputy Director, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ.

### Physiology Society

A symposium on 'New aspects of epithelial transport' will be held under the auspices of the Physiological Society at King's College, Strand, London on 10 December 1976. Electrolyte and fluid absorption and secretion in mammalian amphibian and insect epithelia will be discussed. Details from the Secretary, Department of Physiology, King's College, London WC2.

### Basel-Liver-Week

Basel-Liver-Week will be held from 6-10 October 1976. It will include symposia on 'Membrane alterations as basis of liver injury' (6-7 October), 'Liver and bile' (8-10 October), and 'Bile acid metabolism in health and disease' (11-12 October). Details may be obtained from Professor Dr W. Gerok, Medizinische Universitätsklinik Freiburg, Hugstetter Strasse 55, D-7800 Freiburg i. Br., W-Germany.

### Wisconsin Endoscopy Course

The Medical College of Wisconsin's department of medicine will hold its fifth Annual Postgraduate Endoscopy Course from 10-18 February 1977, in the Canary Islands, Spain. Details may be obtained from Karen A. Witkowski, Gastroenterology Department, Milwaukee County Medical Complex, 8700 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

## Books

**Clinical Tests of Oesophageal Function**  
By R. J. Earlam. (Pp. 383; illustrated. £12.00). Crosby Lockwood Staples: London, 1976.

The title is misleading. Only part of the book is about function tests and details of how to do them are deliberately omitted. It is a personal, general dissertation about oesophageal disease. Mr. Earlam has a scholarly approach to life and especially to medical science, and the book, written in his distinctive and scholarly style, manifests his particular interest in the normal and pathological physiology of the oesophagus. The detailed, partly historical, analysis of the background knowledge and principles upon which function tests are devised, done, and their usefulness assessed is aimed at the postgraduate in specialist training, and the specialist trying to continue his education. The author's purpose is to give an understanding of what causes dysfunction and how it may be studied rather than the simplest way to make a diagnostic or management decision. Many theories and postulated explanations are given about aetiology, physiology, and mechanisms of clinical manifestations but not everyone would agree with the author's

choice as the most likely one.

The physical, physiological, and pharmacological properties of smooth muscle, and the possible relevance of gastrointestinal hormones and other biogenic substances are discussed in some detail. The significance of mucosal potential, the mechanisms of symptom production, embryological aspects, and oesophageal symptoms associated with other gastrointestinal disease are briefly discussed, and our knowledge about vomiting, belching, aerophagy, oesophageal rupture, and oesophageal abnormalities in various systemic medical disorders is reviewed.

This is an interesting and learned book, erudite yet pleasant and comfortable to read, well produced, and adequately illustrated with diagrams, radiographs, photomicrographs, and references.

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**Ileostomy: Surgery, Physiology, and Management** By Graham L. Hill (pp. 187; illustrated; price not stated). Grune and Stratton: New York. 1976. This monograph deals comprehensively with all aspects of ileostomy care. The chapters cover historical aspects, operative care, ileostomy care, normal ileostomy physiology, pathophysiology with special reference to diarrhoea metabolism and mechanical problems, rehabilitation, and also the continent ileostomy. It is written by a surgeon who has devoted a tremendous amount of work to this field. It is a most practical and important publication and should be available wherever ileostomies are performed.

**Abdominal Ultrasound** By Hans Henrik Holm, Jørgen Kvist Kristensen, Sten Nørby Rasmussen, Jan Fog Pedersen, and Søren Hancke (pp. 181; illustrated; D.kr. 200). Munksgaard: Copenhagen. 1976. This comprehensive monograph covers an increasingly important field of advanced diagnosis. The gastrointestinal tract, the biliary system, and pancreas are very well covered with all basic aspects of the subject together with other systems too. The illustrations and reproductions are first class with excellent normal anatomical diagrams for reference in relation to the many scans. It comes from a department where more than 15 000 abdominal examinations have been carried out.

**Clinics in Gastroenterology Vol. 5: Disorders of Oesophageal Motility.** Edited by Michael Atkinson. (Pp. 207; illustrated; subscription rate £13.50 p.a.). This

volume of this popular series is devoted to growing points in basic and clinical studies of the oesophagus. Although this organ has been a popular one for recent books, nevertheless this is, as always, a most up-to-date review written by those most active in this field. It has indeed maintained the high standard of this international series.

**Intestinal Ion transport** Edited by J. W. L. Robinson. (Pp. 430; illustrated; £12.50). MTP: Lancaster, Lancs. 1976. This book provides an up-to-date review of ion and water transport in the intestine in health and disease. It also contains reviews by nephrologists in areas where the ion pumping processes in the kidney are better known than their counterparts in the intestinal tract. It is based on the fourth International Falk Symposium. The main sessions covered are (1) basic mechanisms of ion transport, (2) modifications in intestinal ion transport, (3) adaptation of intestinal ion transport in comparative studies, and (4) transport in the human intestine.

**Aspects of Clinical Gastroenterology: Baillière's Medical Transparencies** Edited by Oliver James and Ian A. D. Bouchier (24 slides; £8.50). This wallet-size publication provides 24 medical transparencies for teaching covering common gastroenterological conditions. Baillière Tindall: London. 1976.

**Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale** This annual report lists the research centres in France supported by the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM). Further information and details of research grants may be obtained from Nicole Glynne, D.Sc., Attaché Scientifique de L'INSERM, French Embassy, 41 Parkside, London, SW1X 71P.

#### Care of Stoma Patients

This booklet, published by Abbott Laboratories Limited as a service to medicine, reports a day conference held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. It concentrates on all the practical problems of stoma care and is particularly well illustrated. It covers the total care, bringing in the role of the nurse and the patient as well as the medical staff.

**Coeliac Society Newsletter No. 16** provides further valuable information about convenience foods which do or do not contain gluten. For those going on holiday there are lists of cooperative hotels in the United Kingdom, and also travel hints for those going overseas. Some medicines contain gluten and these include Dimotane LA, Dimotapp LA, Donnatal LA, Fybranta, Nardil tablets, Natirose, Nulacin, Saroten tablets, and Veracolate tablets. The address of this excellent society is P.O. Box 181, London NW2 2QY.

#### Received

**Beecham Foods Nutrition Information Centre Bulletin Number 119 Nutrition and Drugs Part 1.** Nutrition Information Centre, Beecham Foods, 11, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berks. 1976.

Authors who wish to have their manuscripts acknowledged are asked to enclose a stamped addressed postcard or an international reply coupon.