

Notes and activities

Spring Meeting of BSG

The Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology will take place in Cambridge on Friday 1 April and Saturday 2 April 1977. The scientific programme will consist of free papers with sessions on the various intestinal organs and in addition endoscopy, medical therapy, surgical therapy, and diagnostic techniques. The 1977 Research Medallists will deliver their lectures.

Details, (including registration form) from the BSG Secretariat (Department of Surgery, University College Hospital Medical School, London, W.C.1) or Dr A. P. Dick, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

American Cancer Society Eleanor Roosevelt International Cancer Fellowships
The International Union Against Cancer, with the funds provided by the American Cancer Society for fellowships for research on cancer, invites applications from experienced investigators who wish to study abroad at a single institution, ordinarily for one year. Details and application forms may be obtained from: International Union Against Cancer, Conseil-Général 3, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

European Association for Gastrocamera Diagnosis

The 9th Symposium of Stomach Diseases and the 11th Postgraduate Course on Endoscopy will be held from 5 to 7 May 1977, Eindhoven/Netherlands. The main topics will be 'Paediatric endoscopy', 'Therapy of ulcer disease', and 'Cine-film as a form of documentation and as a teaching medium'. Details may be obtained from the Secretary, Dr J. Sebus, PO Box 581 MSD, NL-Haarlem.

Books

Clinical Radiology of the Paediatric Abdomen and Gastrointestinal Tract. By Rolf L. Schapiro. (Pp. 459; illustrated; \$45.00.) University Park Press: Baltimore, 1976.

This book by a general radiologist is addressed to general radiologists. Illustrations form the major part of the book and it is the author's suggestion that the book be considered essentially an atlas. Each set of illustrations of the large number of conditions is accompanied by a summary of the principal clinical manifestations, the relevant radiological examination and the cardinal radiological signs. Further commentary, perusal of which the author recommends in one's idle hours, expands the clinical and radiological précis. There are good references to each condition which allow further reading.

It is the publisher's claim that the radiographs are of fine detail and unparalleled clarity. Generally speaking this is a reasonable claim for the 700 or more plates. Most conditions encountered in the paediatric alimentary tract are adequately covered and there are chapters on defects in parietes, liver disease, abdominal masses, and the siting of indwelling vascular catheters.

There are some errors, most of which could have been detected in proof reading; for instance, incorrect positioning of columns in a differential diagnosis of rectal bleeding has led to Meckel's diverticulum presenting primarily as haematemesis and varices as pain or perforation; two pictures are inverted; the axes of rotation in gastric volvulus are shown incorrectly; aganglionosis of the ureters is dubious in Hirschsprung's disease.

However, the book can be considered to fulfil its claim of a well-illustrated atlas, with clearly stated salient features and with an optional, more detailed commentary and adequate references.

DONALD SHAW

Atlas of Enteroscopy (Endoscopy of the Small and Large Bowel; Retrograde Cholangio-pancreatography) By L. Demling, M. Classen, and P. Fruhmorgen (Pp. 245, 289 illustrations; £43.32.) Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, London, 1975.

Atlas of Coloscopy F. P. Rossini. (Pp. 205; 492 illustrations; £32.50.) Piccin Medical Books: Padova, 1976.
These English translations of two Euro-

pean atlases of fibre-endoscopy are welcome because of their coverage of specialised areas. They make an interesting contrast in presentation.

The first, from the renowned endoscopy centre at Erlangen, attempts to cover endoscopy of the whole gastrointestinal tract distal to the stomach and excluding the rectum. At the time it was written (1974) this was reasonable, but as duodenoscopy is a routine part of upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and ERCP and colonoscopy are now major investigational procedures in their own right the abbreviated coverage given is probably too little for the specialist but too much for the generalist. The approach is formal with a series of short and well-referenced essays occupying the first quarter of the book, separated from the illustrations; these are unfortunately of variable quality and accompanied by quite inadequate explanatory headings. The result is a rather indigestible collection of expertise and endoscopic snapshots which will be mainly useful for occasional reference in libraries and collections of endoscopic books.

The second, by Dr Rossini of Turin, benefits by fully covering only the single subject of colonoscopy. The lay-out is staggeringly beautiful, with high quality photographs interestingly arranged and supported by clear and practical explanations. Pathological details are wisely limited to what is relevant to the individual illustrations and there is a bibliography but no references. There are one or two minor lapses in an otherwise excellent translation (for example, brittle for friable) and some mysterious classifications (for example, 'sentry' polyp; 'satellite' polyp; 'polypoid plical hyperplasia'; 'aspecific' sigmoiditis, etc.). This atlas is a model of its kind, visually stimulating, and instructive. It should be bought, in spite of its cost, by anyone interested in colonoscopy.

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

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