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The object of *Gut* is to publish original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in the field of gastroenterology. The field is that of alimentary, hepatic, or pancreatic disease, and papers may cover the medical, surgical, radiological, or historical aspects. They may also deal with the basic sciences concerned with the alimentary tract, including experimental work. The report of a single case will be accepted only if it is of sufficient interest in relation to a wider field of research.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of papers should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR. Papers are accepted only on the understanding that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee. They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On the paper the name of the author should appear with initials (or distinguishing Christian name) only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. A definition of the position held by each of the authors in the hospital or laboratory should be stated in a covering letter to the Editor. Communications should be kept short, and illustrations should be included when necessary; coloured illustrations are allowed only if monochrome will not satisfactorily demonstrate the condition. It is not desirable that results should be shown both as tables and graphs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or international reply coupon is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS Only essential Figures and Tables should be included. *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. Magnification scales, if necessary, should be lettered on these. Where possible, prints should be trimmed to column width (i.e. 2½ in). *Diagrams* These will usually be reduced to 2½ in wide. Lettering should be in either Letraset or stencil, and care should be taken that lettering and symbols are of comparable size. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text, they should be marked on the back with Figure numbers, title of paper, and name of author. All photographs, graphs, and diagrams should be referred to as Figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet. *Tables* Tables should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals and each typed on a separate sheet.

ETHICS Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *British Medical Journal* (1964), 2, 177)).

ABBREVIATIONS In general, symbols and abbreviations should be those used by the *Biochemical Journal*. In

any paper concerning electrolyte metabolism, it is desirable that data be calculated as mEq/l. All measurements except blood pressure should be expressed in SI units (see *Journal of Clinical Pathology* (1974), 27, 590-597; *British Medical Journal* (1974), 4, 490), followed by traditional units in parentheses. Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

REFERENCES In the text these should follow the Harvard system—that is, name followed by date; James and Smith (1970). If there are more than two authors they should be cited as James *et al.* (1970) even the first time that they appear. The list of references should be typed in double spacing and in alphabetical order on a separate sheet. Such references should give the author's name, followed by initials and year of publication in brackets, *the title of the article quoted*, the name (in full) of the journal in which the article appeared, the volume number in arabic numerals, followed by numbers of first and last pages of article.

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The Publisher, *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR

- Bever, W. F. M., and Janssen, P. A. J. (1973). Synthetic anti-diarrheal agents. 2,2-diphenyl-4-(4'-aryl-4'-hydroxy-piperidino) butyramides. *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, **16**, 782-786.
- Van Nueten, J. M., Janssen, P. A. J., and Fontaine, J. (1974). Loperamide (R 18 553), a novel type of anti-diarrheal agent. Part 3. *In vitro* studies on the peristaltic reflex and other experiments on isolated tissues. *Arznei-mittel-Forschung*, **24**, 1641-1645.
- Verhaegen, H., De Cree, J., and Schuermans, V. (1974). Loperamide (R 18 553), a novel type of anti-diarrheal agent. Part 7. Clinical investigation. Efficacy and safety of loperamide in patients with severe chronic diarrhea. *Arzneimittel-Forschung*, **24**, 1657-1660.
- Wright, H. K., and Tilson, M. C. (1971). *The Short Gut Syndrome; Pathophysiology and Treatment (Current Problems in Surgery)*, pp. 3-51. Year Book Medical Publishers: Chicago.

The June 1977 Issue

THE JUNE 1977 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

- Effect of the prostaglandin precursor, arachidonic acid, on histamine stimulated gastric secretion in the conscious dog, and observations on the effect of inhibiting endogenous prostaglandin synthesis M. E. CONOLLY, P. R. BIECK, N. A. PAYNE, B. ADKINS, AND J. A. OATES
- Nocturnal metiamide treatment in the management of healed duodenal ulceration M. H. THOMPSON, C. W. VENABLES, P. A. SMITH, AND W. WALKER
- Calcium stimulation of gastrin and gastric acid secretion: effect of small doses of calcium carbonate J. BEHAR, M. HITCHINGS, AND R. D. SMYTH
- Post-vagotomy insulin test: improved predictability of ulcer recurrence after corrections for height and collection errors N. K. MAYBURY, R. G. FABER, AND M. HOBBSLEY
- Effect of lysolecithin on gastric mucosal structure and potential difference R. ORCHARD, K. REYNOLDS, B. FOX, R. ANDREWS, R. A. PARKINS, AND A. G. JOHNSON
- Gastric emptying in diabetic autonomic neuropathy I. W. CAMPBELL, R. C. HEADING, P. TOTHILL, T. A. S. BUIST, D. J. EWING, AND B. F. CLARKE
- Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 9JR, price £2.75, including postage
- Effect of secretin on plasma motilin in man P. MITZNEGG, S. R. BLOOM, W. DOMSCHKE, W. H. HAECKI, S. DOMSCHKE, D. BELOHLAVEK, E. WÜNSCH, AND L. DEMLING
- Lymphocyte populations in liver biopsy specimens from patients with chronic liver disease J. SANCHEZ-TAPIAS, H. C. THOMAS, AND S. SHERLOCK
- Hepatic damage associated with mineral oil deposits R. W. BLEWITT, K. BRADBURY, M. J. GREENALL, AND HEATHER BURROW
- Intestinal perfusion studies in tropical sprue 2. Movement of water and electrolytes M. D. HELLIER, PREMA BHAT, J. ALBERT, AND S. J. BAKER
- Jejunal mucosal gamma glutamyl transferase activity in coeliac disease M. J. FAIRMAN, B. B. SCOTT, C. TOOTHILL, AND M. S. LOSOWSKY
- Anal pressure studies in spinal patients I. C. WHEATLEY, K. J. HARDY, AND J. DENT
- Progress report* Oral ulceration and Behçet's syndrome THOMAS LEHNER
- Notes and activities
- Books

Notes and activities

2nd International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology and Diseases

This symposium, sponsored by the Italian Society of Gastroenterology, like the first one in 1973 was held on 11 and 12 March 1977 in the magnificent conference facilities of the Aula Magna Istituto Nuove Patologie of the Policlinico S. Orsola in Bologna, with the assistance of ISF Italseber e Icar Leon. Professors G. Labo and L. Barbara, and Drs M. Miglioli and R. Corinaldesi, of the University of Bologna, were the prime instigators and organisers of a memorable meeting with its efficient organisation, and delightful hospitality.

The first day was devoted to gastrointestinal secretion and motility, and the rapidly expanding field of gastrointestinal hormones and other biologically active peptides. Reviews of the different cell types in both normal and tumour tissue were given by Julia Polak and E. Solcia. The next group of papers dealt with the effects of various disease states and pharmacological influences on both serum gastric levels and the actual population of G-cells. The role of gastrins in normal and abnormal states were discussed by J. H. Walsh and J. Hansky, and there was considerable discussion of tests for differentiating gastrinomas from other hypergastrinaemic states.

Several speakers discussed different inhibitors of gastric secretion, some hormonal such as bombesin (V. Speranza), GIP (W. Creutzfeldt), somatostatin (M. Quatrini), and urogastrone (I. E. Gillespie), and, of course, the more recently introduced H₂ receptor antagonist, cimetidine. In studies on cimetidine going over many months, there was no evidence in humans of either rebound secretion or hyperplasia as noted in some animal work.

Possible clinical applications of both bioassay and radioimmunoassay of serum cholecystokinin particularly in patients with pancreatic disease was raised by R. F. Harvey and by J. F. Rehfeld and progress with plasma secretin estimations was reviewed by E. Straus. Professor Barbara's group described inhibition of secretion by trithiozine. Bertaccini reviewed the effects of a series of peptides related to substance P on smooth muscle contraction at different levels of the gastrointestinal tract. Gastrointestinal motility in both health and disease was reviewed by J. J. Misiewicz.

The next main topic was the gastric surface epithelium, with an opening review by R. Lambert on various individual factors influencing the rate of renewal of gastric mucosal cells, the production and characteristics of mucus and changes in gastritis. Several papers dealt with mucosal growth and function, and the influence of H₂ receptor antagonists. J. H. Baron discussed pathophysiology of hypersecretion, and the final session was on medical and surgical treatment.

The well-judged timing of the second symposium is a tribute to the productive state of all these aspects of gastroenterology, and to the foresight of the organisers.

I. E. G. AND J. H. B.

International symposium on intensive care in hepatology and gastroenterology

This symposium, which will include a session on emergency endoscopy, will be held in Marseille from 26-28 September 1977. Details from Dr J. Di Costanzo, Hôpital Sainte-Marguerite, 270, boulevard Sainte-Marguerite, Marseille, France. (Tél. (91) 75.57.86- 75.91.50-Poste 511 13274 Marseille Cedex 2).

British Council: Paediatric Gastroenterology

A residential course will be held in Birmingham, 12-24 February 1978, for senior registrars, lecturers, and consultants from overseas, with experience and a special interest in paediatric gastroenterology. Directors of Studies: Professor Charlotte M. Anderson and Professor A. S. McNeish. Fee £400. Apply through the British Council in your own country. Closing date for receipt of applications in London, 1 September 1977.

Books

Gastroenterology Vol. 2, The Small and Large Intestine, 3rd edn. Edited by H. L. Bockus. (£29.95.) W. B. Saunders: London. 1976.

The four volumes of this classic series total over 4000 pages and this second volume on *The Small and Large Intestine* includes 44 chapters by 67 contributors from many parts of the world. There are elegant contributions on the embryology, gross anatomy, and microscopic appearances of the normal intestine; the scanning electron microscopic pictures of the colonic mucosa deserve special mention. Pathological anatomy is well illustrated.

sometimes in colour, and these anatomical chapters are well supported by contributions on the radiological appearances of barium and angiographic studies. Physiological aspects of assimilation and electrolytes exchange are dealt with succinctly in a modern idiom and there is an interesting section on the ecology of the gut with contributions on host immunity and bacterial population.

The clinician who wishes to learn about a relatively uncommon disorder or a particular facet of a common disease will find the answer. If he wants to know how to investigate a patient with malabsorption or how to manage a patient with colitis he will find himself in more difficulty because of the amount of information presented. The editor's aim is that the series should be encyclopaedic without being ponderous. The first aim is achieved up to 1973 but the sheer size of the book makes it unsuitable for consecutive reading. Most readers will find that they read sections according to their interest or current clinical problem. Dipping into the book they will find some masterly reviews—for example, the chapters on carbohydrate assimilation, protein-losing gastroenteropathy, the carcinoid syndrome, and many others.

This series is indispensable as a standard reference work for the library of a department of gastroenterology, postgraduate medical centre, or medical school. Many gastroenterologists may feel that easy access to this series in a library is sufficient for their personal need.

J. E. LENNARD-JONES

Frontiers of Gastrointestinal Research. Volume 2 Enzymology of the Liver Edited by Leo van der Reis. (Pp. 295. £34.) S. Karger: Basel, Munchen, Paris, London, New York, Sydney.

Volume 2 of the series *Frontiers of Gastrointestinal Research* is devoted to the subject of hepatic enzymology. It consists of seven papers by an international panel of experts including Professor G. Neale from Dublin. The subjects are diverse, ranging from the enzymology of the drug metabolising system to that of hepatic cancer. Each topic is dealt with in full and there is an extensive bibliography. In view of the title of this volume it is obvious that in general there is a very strong biochemical bias but the clinical implications of the topics discussed are developed, particularly perhaps in the papers on Vitamin D metabolism and bilirubin conjugation.

A useful review of the drug metabolising