

Notes and activities

XIII Meeting, European Pancreatic Club

This meeting will take place in Krakow, Poland, on 14-16 May 1981. Details may be obtained from Professor S J Konturek, Institute of Physiology, U1. Grzegorzeczka 16, 31-531 Krakow, Poland, or Professor H Goebell, Medical Department, University of Essen, D-4300 Essen, Hufelandstr. 55, Federal Republic of Germany.

3rd European Congress of Endoscopy

This will be held in Berlin, 14-17 June 1981. Topics will include diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy, future development of endoscopy, confrontation of endoscopy and other techniques, microsurgery, ultrasonic diagnosis, and forensic medical problems in endoscopy. Details may be obtained from Priv.-Doz. Dr L Witzel, DRK Krankenhaus, Drontheimer Strasse, D 1000 Berlin 65.

Books

Recent Advances in Gastrointestinal Pathology Edited by Ralph Wright. (Pp 374. Illustrated. £20.00.) W B Saunders: London. 1980.

This volume of reviews is based on a symposium held by The Royal College of Pathologists as recently as February 1980. There are sections on pathophysiology and on inflammatory diseases, but half the book is devoted to gastrointestinal malignancy. Most of the contributions make enjoyable and informative reading, although one or two are disappointing. The chapters on anaemia and the gastrointestinal tract and on gastrointestinal mucus are particularly good, and those on bacterial infections and on pseudomembranous colitis are helpful summaries of the present position. The whole section on malignancy is somewhat patchy but, in general, offers good summaries of current knowledge in the specialised areas covered.

On the whole this book is quite useful, taking into account the wide variety of subjects covered. It can be recommended particularly as a reference volume for institutional libraries, but many gastroenterologists will find in it much to interest them.

P D FAIRCLOUGH

Incontinence and its Management Edited by Dorothy Mandelstam. (Pp 233. Illustrated. £9.95.) Croom Helm: London. 1980.

Many previous books on incontinence

have been exclusively confined to the aged or to urinary incontinence, but this work offers a comprehensive guide to incontinence of faeces as well as urine among patients in general. Management involves a variety of professionals from the general practitioner and hospital specialist to the community nurse and social worker. Each of these individuals may be unaware of the role and problems of the others and the editor has attempted to give an overall picture, and to bring together the many facets of incontinence. It will give the hospital specialist insight into the social and community aspect of the problems and, conversely, those in the community will better understand what can be achieved by the specialist. The chapters on urological, anorectal, and gynaecological aspects written by experts will assist each of these specialists in understanding the mechanisms and management of incontinence in fields immediately outside their own.

This is undoubtedly a most useful book. It tries at all times to be practical with instructions in analysing incontinence, and gives a useful account of equipment and appliances which may be necessary and a glossary for those unfamiliar with medical terms. It is up to date with chapters on behavioural aspects, management in the community, rehabilitation, geriatric medicine and the role of the social services, general practitioner, and the nurse. However, the list of authors hidden at the end would be better placed at the beginning where it could be seen more easily, and in any future edition the imbalance should be rectified between the adequate numbers of references cited in chapters on specialist medical and behavioural aspects and the paucity in those dealing with other topics. Nevertheless, for the surgeon or gastroenterologist interested in incontinence this book will be valuable and can be recommended.

R J NICHOLLS

Adelantos en Gastroenterologia By Luis Bustos Fernández and Aldo O F de Paula. (Pp 356. Illustrated. Price not quoted.) Potosi 42 15, Buenos Aires, Argentina. 1980.

An interesting book containing a wide variety of gastroenterological topics has been produced by Dr Luis Bustos Fernández and Dr A O F de Paula from the University of Buenos Aires. The book is under two main headings the first concerned purely with physiological topics,

and the second with disorders of function relating to important gastrointestinal diseases. About half of the chapters are contributed by South American authors, and the remainder are contributed by a most impressive international cast.

Several of the chapters are based on presentations given by visiting speakers at recent Argentine congresses of gastroenterology. Although of course the text is in Spanish, much of it is easily understood by English-speaking readers. It has been well produced in a compact form, and is a most useful source of up-to-date information on a wide range of topics from bile acids and the microflora of the intestine through gastrointestinal hormones, mechanisms controlling transport, motility, and immunological response. British contributors include Drs Polak, Bloom Baron, and Eastwood, and several European countries and the United States are well represented. Dr Bustos Fernández is to be congratulated on producing this fine book, and it is anticipated that additional volumes in a series may appear before very long. The appearance of this particular book is a fitting tribute to the thriving state of gastroenterology in the Argentine Republic.

I E GILLESPIE