

Notes and activities

Drug-Nutrient Interactions

Drug-Nutrient Interactions, a new quarterly journal, will publish work on the effects of pharmacological toxic agents and nutrients on each other. Manuscripts should be submitted to the editor, Daphne A Roe, Cornell University, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Savage Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA. Details may be obtained from Alan R Liss, Inc, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011, USA.

Seventh Hepatic Update, Royal Free Hospital, London

This update will take place on 15–17 July 1982. Speakers include P D Berk (New York), R Dick (London), J Galambos (Atlanta), B I Hirschowitz (Alabama), W Maddrey (Johns Hopkins), H Popper (New York), F Schaffner (New York), P J Scheuer (London), D S Zimmon (New York), A J Zuckerman (London), and staff of the Royal Free Hospital. Topics include alcohol, amino acids, antivirals, cholestasis, drug reactions, Gilbert's syndrome, immunology, membranes, non-A, non-B hepatitis, shunt surgery, surgical endoscopy, tumours, case discussions, and slide seminar. Information from Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock, The Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.

Books

Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System By Sheila Sherlock. 6th Edition. (Pp. 537. Illustrated. £24.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford, 1981.

An enormous amount of effort has been put into updating this latest edition of *Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System*, and there are new chapters on hepatobiliary imaging and cholangiography. The text is therefore now very extensive and covers all the major recent advances in hepatology. As the book is now over 500 pages long it becomes of interest to compare its merits with the even more extensively detailed texts that have recently become available. There is little doubt in this reviewer's mind that for the practising clinician no other text even begins to compare with this. Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock's greatest *forte* has always been clarity of presentation, not only with her lecturing but also with her book, and the

excellence of the present index means that the clinician can search for answers to clinical dilemmas with the utmost ease. Although more than 1000 new references have been added, it is doubtful whether they will often be used. All over the world, physicians and surgeons will wish to continue to lift the book off their shelves and find out how Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock would deal with their problem. This is what the book is about—an aid to practical hepatology, based on the experience of a great hepatologist. This book is thus recommended to doctors in every branch of medicine, and it is sincerely hoped that this will not be the last edition.

D B A SILK

Introduction to Abdominal Surgery. Fifty Clinical Studies By C J Schein. (Pp. 521. Illustrated. Price not quoted.) Harper and Row: New York, 1981.

The substance of this book is taken from a series of weekly case conferences held for the benefit of senior students, first year medical staff, and senior nurses.

Each of 50 case reports is dealt with in a set pattern. A concise case history is given, after which there is a more lengthy analysis which attempts to give an insight into the way each symptom is weighted by the experienced doctor. This is followed by brief advice regarding a symptom-orientated examination followed by a full description of the physical findings. The differential diagnosis is discussed with close reference to the case history and examination, and the relative value of different investigations is set out. Possible patterns are also discussed and finally the outcome of that particular patient is described.

Each chapter is concluded by a number of specific questions (together with the answers) and a short list of suggested reading. The major criticism of the book lies in the suggested reading, which in many cases is out dated. This, in part, reflects the lengthy period over which the case reports were collected and the fact that the references were chosen by student participants at the original meetings. This is one area in which the book could be improved. Though there are controversies in many aspects of surgery, there are few who will agree with the author who states that hydrostatic dilatation of the oesophagus is the treatment of choice for achalasia or that serum amylase is not of discriminatory value in the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis. Similarly, it must be a curious saphena varix that enters into the differential diagnosis of a scrotal hernia.

These and other small points aside, the book admirably fulfils its aim, which is to demonstrate the importance of a structured approach to the history, examination, and investigation of an individual patient. A worthwhile read for all medical students.

J STAMATAKIS

Books received

Pancreatic Disease. Diagnosis and Therapy Edited by Thomas L Dent, F E Eckhauser, Aarpm O Vinik, J G Turcotte. (Pp 553; illustrated; £39). London: Academic Press, 1981.

Pain: a Spike-Interval Coded Message in the Brain By Raimond Emmers. (Pp. 134; illustrated; price not stated). New York: Raven Press, 1981.

Pancreatic Cancer A series of workshops on the biology of human cancer. Report No. 12 (UICC Technical Report series, vol. 57). (Pp. 142; illustrated; Sw.Fr. 20.00). Geneva: IUAC, 1981.

Special Topics in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Vol. 12 Edited by Maro P Cohen and Piero P Foa. (Pp. 162; illustrated; price not stated). New York: Alan R Liss, 1981.

Studying a Study and Testing a Test. How to read the medical literature By Richard K Riegelman. (Pp. 283; illustrated; \$15.00). Boston: Little, Brown, 1981.

Liver Update 1/71 Proceedings of an international symposium on liver physiology and disease. Edited by Ralph E Kirsch, Morris Sherman, and John Terblanche. (Pp. 138; £9.50). Rotterdam: A A Balkema, 1981.

Vagotomy and Pyloroplasty. Advances 1975-80 Edited by F Holle and G E Holle. (Pp. 143; illustrated; DM98). Berlin: Springer Verlag, 1980.

Gastrointestinale Endoskopie im Kindesalter By M Burdelski and H Huchzermeyer. (Pp. 138; illustrated; \$57.90). Berlin: Springer Verlag, 1981.

Gallenwegschirurgie By P Tondelli and M Allgower. (Pp. 136; illustrated; \$57.90). Berlin: Springer Verlag, 1980.

Methods and Achievements in Experimental Pathology. Cell Markers Edited by G Jasmin. (Pp. 293; illustrated; \$99.50). Basel: Karger, 1981.

International Workshop on (+)-Cyanidanol-3 in Diseases of the Liver. Edited by Harold O Conn. International Congress and Symposium Series No. 47. (Pp. 267; illustrated; price not stated). London: Royal Society of Medicine, 1981.