

diagnostic process by the use of ESC TO ABORT discriminant variables. The problem is that computer groupies always assume a level of jargon recognition in their audience that is not always present. How about 'A computerised patient record system using a fourth generation language'? Whatever happened to the first three? BAD COMMAND OR FILE NAME Or consider 'Surgical emergencies: a new learning experience'; what about poor old Zachary Cope's learning experience? When the computer freaks NOT READING DRIVE B can learn to talk to their colleagues as well as they can ABORT, RETRY, IGNORE? to each other and to their computers, then we may get somewhere. The evidence of this book is we are not yet there. ABORT, RETRY, IGNORE? Abort? Too late. Ignore? Foolish. Retry, perhaps.

DAVID WINGATE

News

Percutaneous gall bladder surgery and radiology: the new technique

A one day programme will be held in London on 17 October, 1988. Further details from BDI Conferences, 9-11 Kensington High Street, London W8 5NP. Tel: 01-938 2151.

Hopkins Endoscopy Prize

The Hopkins Prize is offered annually for a paper on any topic relating to endoscopy. Applicants are invited to submit a three page summary of the proposed paper to the Endoscopy Committee of the BSG who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1989 award. Collaborative work is acceptable but written approval for such entries and for the designated presenter must be provided by all principal contributors to the study. The recipient will present a 15 minute paper at the Spring BSG meeting in Bradford and will receive a prize of £100 and a permanent memento. Applications (four copies) should be submitted to: Dr N Krasner, Department

of Medicine, Walton Hospital, Rice Lane, Liverpool L9 1AE. The closing date for entries is 16 December, 1988.

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1989

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1989 Award. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1989 but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been done in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting of the Society in Bradford in 1989. Applications (15 COPIES) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4LB, *by 1 December 1988.*

British Society of Gastroenterology

The 1988 Annual Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held at the University of Sheffield from 14-16 September 1988, under the presidency of Dr J J Misiewicz. The three day programme was a blend of tradition and innovation. There was a full programme of scientific papers, but the increasing use of the medium of poster presentation was marked by a plenary poster session; for the first time, the poster achieved parity with the spoken word. Numerous sessions catered for sectional interests within the Society, while postgraduate education was covered by the Teaching Half-Day and four State-of-the-Art lectures. The Endoscopy Foundation Lecture was, most appropriately, 'A personal history of the fibrescope' by Professor Basil Hirschowitz, and the Sir Arthur Hurst lecture was given by Professor Sir David Weatherall. Receptions were held at the Mappin Gallery, the Industrial Museum, and Chatsworth House; members and guests were serenaded during the Conference Dinner at the Cutlers Hall by the music of the Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band.