

# Gut

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**ETHICS** Ethical aspects will be considered 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 *Br Med J* 1964; 2: 177)).

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**REFERENCES** These follow the Vancouver system - that is, references numbered consecutively in the text and listed numerically with titles abbreviated in the style of *Index Medicus, Standard journal article* - (list all authors when six or less; when seven or more, list first three and add *et al*): James A, Joyce B, Harvey T. Effect of longterm cimetidine. *Gut* 1979; 20: 123-4. **NB: Accurate punctuation is essential.**

**CORRECTIONS** other than printers' errors may be charged to the author.

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## FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The World Congresses  
of Gastroenterology

August 20th-31st, 1990

Sydney, Australia



■ *9th Congress of Gastroenterology*

■ *7th Congress of Digestive Endoscopy*

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cirrhosis, and the role of copper in the liver. This book is one of a series aimed at updating paediatricians in rapidly advancing areas, and this it does admirably.

The book is well laid out, with short chapters and many sub-headings which makes it very easy to find one's way around. Dr Tanner's great strength lies in his clear understanding and explanation of the many biochemical disorders that are central to childhood liver disease and that are too often sketchily described or understood by the authors of some paediatric tests. Reye's syndrome and its differential diagnosis are particularly well dealt with in a chapter entitled 'Microvesicular fatty change in the liver' which includes a superb discussion of this difficult and challenging area. It is disappointing that the section on glycogen storage diseases was removed. Although the topic is dealt with in a sister book in the series, I feel it would have been appropriately included here, especially as many cases will be referred to those with an interest in paediatric (and adult!) liver disease. I do not believe this book has any significant weaknesses, but the sections dealing with clinical management are sometimes too brief to be of great help. Diagrams are in general clear, and easily understood. The references are outstanding, and in themselves provide a valuable, current statement of advances in the field. Only a handful are older than 1980.

This is the best small book in the field and should be available to all general paediatricians, paediatric gastroenterologists, and adult specialists needing a clear and up-to-date text telling them what is going on in the exciting world of paediatric hepatology.

M J TARLOW

**Trends in bile acid research.** Falk Symposium 52. Edited by G Paumgartner, A Stiehl, and W Gerok. (Pp 385; illustrated; price not stated.) Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1989.

Bile acid research had its heyday in the 1970s, when biochemists, physiologists, pharmacologists, and clinicians saw great opportunities in linking the massive activities of the liver with the intestine's digestive function, studying the enterohepatic circulation, the chemistry and metabolism of steroids and serum lipids, and the pathogenesis and dissolution of gall stones. When current techniques proved inadequate for many of the questions which remained, however, and gall stone dissolution was shown to displace few of the old established strategies of clinicians, the flame of bile acid research began to dim somewhat.

This book consists of the contributions to the 10th International Bile Acid Meeting held in June 1988. It contains excellent reviews by J L Boyer on bile acid transport and bile secretion, A F Hofmann on past and future trends in bile acid research, M C Carey on gall stone formation, and R H Dowling on medical treatment of gall bladder stones. The research contributions are divided into sections entitled 'Biosynthesis and metabolism of bile acids and lipids', 'Bile acid transport and bile secretion', 'Bile acids in disorders of the hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal system', 'Progress in gallstone disease', and lastly 'Effects of ursodeoxycholic acid in liver disease', from groups in Paris, Frankfurt/Main, Milan, Heidelberg and Bologna reporting trials in patients with primary biliary cirrhosis and sclerosing cholangitis. There is much that is fascinating in this volume,

suggesting that the smouldering embers are approaching dry timbers once more.

To make up for the lack of peer review, conference proceedings sometimes include edited discussions. This featured some of the earlier Falk Bile Acid publications, often revealing some of the assumptions of the researchers and their peers. Future volumes in the series might consider reinstating the discussions. Otherwise this publication of papers from most countries active in bile acid research apart from Japan, constitute an up-to-date and valuable reference for all interested in this field.

THOMAS S LOW-BEER

**Radiology of the esophagus.** By M S Levine. (Pp 373; illustrated; £64.) Philadelphia: Saunders, 1989.

A well produced reasonably indexed comprehensive hardback reference work for the departmental library. Written by radiologists for radiologists, mostly by the main author with nine other contributors, but about the art of radiology, rather than the science of what can go wrong with the functioning of the pharynx and the oesophagus and how the radiologist can define the problem. Many of the pictures by double contrast techniques are very beautiful demonstrations of subtle mucosal lesions, but one wonders how often and how easily they are obtained during busy routine sessions. What can be achieved is not necessarily what needs to be achieved, especially when endoscopy and history taking will not be dispensed with. Great emphasis is laid upon upright double contrast methods as the best way to examine the oesophagus, although the technique is designed to show changes in the surface of the mucosa rather than in the properties of the wall, and many patients with dysphagia are distressed by an attempt to swallow effervescent tablets. There is only passing mention of fluoroscopy, and that in the prone position, yet so much more information can be obtained by watching the pharynx and the oesophagus behave, especially in the 10° head-down position which produces maximal distension of the normal wall of the oesophagus and maximal definition of zones of increased resistance to stretch.

Some of the accounts of the physiology, applied pharmacology and mechanisms of disorders are confusing and are becoming old fashioned. The chapters on 'Pharynx and cervical oesophagus', and 'CT and MRI' are not very helpful. There is no mention of intraluminal ultrasonography. Nevertheless, the main author has an appreciation of the aesthetics of radiology and has contributed to the radiological recognition of mucosal abnormalities so well illustrated in this book.

D A W EDWARDS

**Nutrition in clinical practice.** Edited by W Hartig, G Dietze, R Weiner, and P Furst. (Pp 308; illustrated; £48.) Germering, West Germany: S Karger, 1989.

**Liver cell carcinoma.** Edited by P Bannasch, D Keppler, and G Weber. (Pp 525; illustrated; £70.) Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic, 1989.

**Magnesium in health and disease.** Edited by Y Itokawa and J Durlach. (Pp 432; illustrated; £35.) London: John Libbey, 1989.

**The regulatory and protective role of the normal microflora.** Edited by R Grubb, T Midtvedt, and E Norin. (Pp 416; illustrated; £50.) London: Macmillan Press, 1989.

**Advances in urology.** Vol 2 Edited by B Lytton, W J Catalona, L I Lipshultz, and E J McGuire. (Pp 251; illustrated; £40.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1989.

**Surgery of the spleen.** Edited by W J Rudowski and S J Pawelski. (Pp 330; illustrated; price not stated.) Bethesda, USA: National Center for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, 1987.

**The causation and clinical management of pelvic radiation disease.** Edited by P F Schofield and E W Lupton. (Pp 153; illustrated; price not stated.) London: Springer-Verlag, 1989.

**Cancer of the stomach.** Edited by J W L Fielding, J Powell, W H Allum, J A H Waterhouse, and C C McConkey. (Pp 246; illustrated; £40.) Basingstoke: Macmillan Press, 1989.

**The biological basis of disease. Selected papers.** Edited by P R J Burch, M S Chesters, and J E Burch. (Pp 280; illustrated; £14.95.) Leeds: Leeds University Press, 1990.

**On stress disease and evolution.** G W Boyd. (Pp 256; not illustrated; A\$29.95.) Tasmania: The University of Tasmania, 1989.

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## NOTE

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### British Society of Gastroenterology Spring Meeting

The 1990 Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology was held at the University of Warwick on 28-30 March under the presidency of Dr Roger Williams. It was thus appropriate that the topic of 'Advances in liver surgery' had been selected for the International Teaching Day to which the first day of the meeting was devoted; among the chairmen of the four sessions, the President was joined by his distinguished collaborator, Sir Roy Calne. The remaining one and a half days were taken up by a mixture of symposia, BSG section meetings, free paper and poster sessions and lectures; of the latter, the highlights were the International State of the Art Lecture by Professor John Furness and the lecture by Dr Andrew Garner, the recipient of the 1990 Avery Jones Research Medal. The transition from the cosmopolitan capital city ambience of the previous meeting to the more utilitarian atmosphere of one of our newer provincial universities was eased by a social programme that included a tour of the Museum of British Road Transport, an endoscopic view of medievalism at Warwick Castle, and the Conference Dinner at a hotel in the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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**Lasers in urologic surgery.** Edited by J A Smith, B S Stein, and R C Benson. (Pp 194; illustrated; £50.50.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1989.