

Notes and activities

BSG Research Award 1980

Five hundred word summaries of personal research work are invited by the Research Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the award for 1980. The award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less (on 31 December 1980) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting in 1981. Applications (six copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ, no later than 1 November 1980.

Oxford Course in Gastroenterology

The Oxford Course in Gastroenterology will take place on 4-7 January 1981. It is designed for consultants and registrars, not necessarily specialising in gastroenterology. Topics discussed will include portal hypertension, Crohn's disease, the pancreas, coeliac disease, new developments in hepatology, and new techniques in gastroenterology. Further information from Dr D P Jewell, The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU. Telephone Oxford 647111.

Books

The Hepatic Coma Syndromes and Lactulose By H O Conn and M M Lieberthal. (Pp. 419. Illustrated. \$46.00). Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, 1979. This is an up-to-date and encyclopaedic account of hepatic encephalopathy and its treatment. Despite the wealth of detail the book is easy to read as it is well illustrated and the prose is punctuated with the witticisms one has come to expect from these authors.

There are detailed descriptions of the clinical and laboratory features of hepatic encephalopathy, including interesting observations on the nature of asterix and foetor hepaticus. Clinically detectable encephalopathy is clearly only the tip of the iceberg and there is an excellent chapter on the development and use of psychometric testing. The biochemical abnormalities purporting to be responsible for coma are well set out and dis-

cussed and it is interesting to see that ammonia is again rated highly after some years of relative obscurity. Chapters on the inherited hyperammonaemic states and Reye's syndrome are included for completeness.

The second half of the book is devoted to the management of hepatic encephalopathy with particular emphasis on the role of lactulose. The pharmacology and mechanism of action of lactulose are considered in detail. The data from clinical trials are well set out and analysed and there is no doubt that the drug is highly efficacious and entirely safe—an unusual combination. The use of the lactulose enema (a neglected approach in the United Kingdom) is highlighted and there are interesting observations on the value of combining lactulose with neomycin, a situation in which only 30-50% of the patients seem to derive any benefit from the lactulose.

Although the book is perhaps too long and detailed for most busy general gastroenterologists, it is a must for the hepatologist and as a source book should be in every library.

I M MURRAY-LYON

International Symposium on Hepatotoxicity Edited by M Eliakim, J Eshchar, and H J Zimmerman. (Pp. 167. Illustrated. £12.35; \$19.00.) Academic Press: New York, London, 1979.

This book is a collection of papers presented at a symposium in 1973 and is now of little more than historical interest. It is surprising that there are no contributions dealing with the hepatotoxicity of paracetamol, anti-tuberculous drugs, or alcohol. There is nothing about vinyl chloride in the section on occupational hepatotoxicity.

There appears to have been little editing of individual contributions, many chapters do not contain a summary, and there is no index. A section on the value of serum enzyme measurements, by one of the editors, merely tells the reader that this was discussed during the symposium. A detailed account would have been particularly valuable for a new worker in the field. Some chapters, however, are excellent, including Erlinger on bile flow and Berthelot on bilirubin disposal. Conn has written a well-balanced, though somewhat philosophical, account of halothane hepatitis, but recent studies inevitably make the section on pathogenesis out of date.

The final section of the book deals with environmental and host factors. With the exception of the chapters on aflatoxins and senecio the section contains little data and would have benefited from ruthless editing.

S P WILKINSON

Immunology of the Gastrointestinal Tract Edited by P Asquith. (Pp. 348. Illustrated. £20.50.) Churchill-Livingstone: Edinburgh. Dr. Asquith has assembled a highly talented team which has produced a volume remarkable for its comprehensive reviews. The book begins with three chapters on the basic immunology of the gut. The second part concerns disorders of gastrointestinal immunity and includes valuable contributions on the mouth, food allergy, and infections. Chapters on the immunobiology of the alimentary tract of the pig and an extensive review of animal disease akin to coeliac disease and inflammatory bowel disease are useful adjuncts. I found the chapter on the stomach confusing, but, in general, the layout of each chapter is clear, although the text is so heavily referenced with authors' names that reading frequently becomes difficult. The text could have been simplified in several places as many tables are provided that summarise the information together with the appropriate references. The book will be of immense value as a source of reference for many disciplines concerned with the immunology of the gastrointestinal tract. It is a pity that high cost may largely confine this book to libraries.

D P JEWELL

Books received

Mechanisms of Intestinal Secretion Edited by Henry J Binder. (Pp. 299; illustrated; \$28). Liss: New York, 1979.

A Decade of Viral Hepatitis: Abstracts 1969-1979 Edited by Arie J Zuckerman. (Pp. 501; price not stated.) Elsevier/North Holland: Amsterdam, 1980.

Annual Research Reviews: Substance P, vol. 2 By Petr Skrabanek and David Powell. (Pp. 175; £16.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1980.

Recent Advances in Surgery—10 Edited by Selwyn Taylor. (Pp. 440; illustrated; £9.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1980.

The Hepatic Coma Syndromes And Lactulose

Michael L. Alosco, Robert A. Stern



The Hepatic Coma Syndromes And Lactulose:

Unveiling the Energy of Verbal Artistry: An Emotional Sojourn through **The Hepatic Coma Syndromes And Lactulose**

In some sort of inundated with displays and the cacophony of immediate transmission, the profound energy and psychological resonance of verbal art often diminish in to obscurity, eclipsed by the regular barrage of noise and distractions. Yet, situated within the musical pages of **The Hepatic Coma Syndromes And Lactulose**, a fascinating work of literary brilliance that impulses with fresh feelings, lies an remarkable journey waiting to be embarked upon. Published by a virtuoso wordsmith, this magical opus manuals visitors on an emotional odyssey, softly exposing the latent potential and profound influence stuck within the complicated internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse with this evocative analysis, we will embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is key styles, dissect its charming writing style, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impact it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

<https://archive.kdd.org/public/uploaded-files/Documents/The%20Holocaust%20The%20Destruction%20Of%20European%20Jewry%201933%201945.pdf>

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The Hepatic Coma Syndromes And Lactulose Introduction

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