Preface

F. AVERY JONES, C.B.E.

This Symposium which has been organized by the York Postgraduate Centre is an illustration of the contribution which such centres are now making to postgraduate education. It was attended by consultants, physicians, surgeons and radiologists, many coming from other parts of the country. This can be a more mutually profitable arrangement than having one speciality only and provides an opportunity for a very useful exchange of views between different specialities. Gastroenterology is an ideal subject for such a meeting as there are so many facets of interest and importance to so many different branches of medicine. There are, for example, remarkably

close associations between certain skin conditions and gastro-intestinal diseases and the dermatologist has to be aware of for example coeliac syndrome presenting with troublesome eczema. Gastroenterology is a field in which very rapid advances in diagnosis and treatment have been made and this also makes it an excellent choice for this Symposium. Dr Geoffrey Watkinson and his colleagues are to be congratulated on the planning of the conference and on its success and many will be pleased to find that the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* is publishing a full account of this meeting which will bring it to a very much wider audience.

Introduction

GEOFFREY WATKINSON

The expansion in postgraduate medical education in recent years has tended to overlook the need for the continuing education of the consultant, who is not only expected to keep abreast of the developments in his speciality, but is being increasingly asked to participate in postgraduate teaching. Consultant courses have to date been few and far between, concentrated on teaching hospitals and places hard to obtain. With the active encouragement of the Regional Postgraduate Dean, the York Postgraduate Medical Education Committee decided to plan a consultants' course in Gastroenterology which took place at the University of York between 25 and 29 September 1967 and was attended by 140 participants.

To plan a consultants' course one needs a suitable topic, able speakers, efficient chairmen, pleasant surroundings and amenities for meetings and finally, if the content of the course justifies, facilities for publication of the proceedings. Gastroenterology, with its appeal to all medical disciplines, proved an excellent topic for the course as shown by the fact that fifty-five surgeons, seventy-two physicians, eight radiologists and five pathologists attended. Eleven sessions addressed by distinguished speakers covered many aspects of gastroenterology and were followed by lively discussions. Excellent facilities for the Course were provided at the

University of York and at the York Postgraduate Medical Centre for which I would like to thank the University authorities and the York 'A' Hospital Management Committee.

I was delighted when the Council of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine offered to publish the complete content of the Course in the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, an ideal publication for graduate teaching information. Transcription of recorded discussion is always difficult and I must apologise that small parts of the discussion have had to be omitted and that some participants remained unidentified, but most of it is presented.

The considerable costs of organizing and publishing the Course were offset by gifts from the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, Messrs Reckitts, Selpharm, Glaxo, Parke Davis, Sandoz, Wyeth, Searle, Pfizer, Berk Pharmaceuticals and Boehringer Ingelheim whom I would like to thank for their generous help. Messrs Carlo Erba provided secretarial help, printing and recording facilities which also proved a great help.

I am particularly indebted to Mrs M. Webb, Secretary/Librarian of the York Postgraduate Medical Centre who made all the day-to-day arrangements and who helped enormously in the preparation of the text.

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