Foreword

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Sir Francis Avery Jones qualified at Bart's in 1934. We are honouring the golden jubilee of his medical career by a Festschrift. Friends, colleagues and pupils have compiled a booklet of essays written especially for the occasion and covering selected topics and areas of his work and interests.

The curriculum vitae and list of publications provide the bare facts of Avery's working life. His career since 1934 is that of gastroenterology in Britain, from the generation of the general physician taking a special interest in the stomach to his epoch-making opening of a specialized Gastrointestinal Unit in 1940. That department, at Central Middlesex Hospital, provided the base for concentrated clinical and research activities in this subspeciality. Young doctors, from this and many other countries, were attracted to his Unit at Central. They came, some on brief pilgrimages, others to stay for weeks, months or years. Many of them, once trained in gastroenterology, opened their own special departments throughout Britain and abroad. Each worker, visitor and colleague was made welcome by Avery both at Central and in his home; each was instructed calmly and quietly, methodically and indefatigably in both the science and art of gastroenterology, as well as questioned incessantly for any new development in gastroenterological theory and practice which should be incorporated into the accepted canon, form the subject of a research project, or become a basis for future progress.

I have edited this supplement on behalf of generations of doctors who became drawn, as did I, to gastroenterology through seeing, hearing and reading Avery, and who would like formally to record our gratitude for his training, his encouragement and his friendship over the years.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed their individual chapters. The Festschrift begins with the non-organ-specific topics of clinical trials and epidemiology, proceeds with a conventional grouping of chapters on a cephalad-caudad axis from the oesophagus, through stomach and duodenum to the small and large intestines, and ends with essays on the organization of gastroenterology and of hospitals.

It is particularly appropriate that the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* should have offered to publish this Festschrift as a special issue because Avery's career has been primarily in postgraduate research and teaching, not only in gastroenterology but also in the fields of administration of hospital practice and health services. We are all indebted to Glaxo Pharmaceuticals for their support which has made this publication possible.