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Preface

The editors feel very indebted to the five authors who have provided
extremely valuable contributions on topics of general surgical interest. R. Smith gives a most instructive demonstration on strictures of bile ducts. He clearly explains his ingenious procedure of using 'induced mucosal herniation' of the small gut as a means to cover the critical scar area. In a series of 80 very high bile duct strictures observed over a five year period, the incidence of restenosis has been just over five per cent. Concerning disseminated intravascular coagulation, P.T. Flute discusses the pertinent information for the clinician. He ends with a lucid discussion as to when to use anticoagulants and under what exceedingly rare conditions a combination of anticoagulants and fibrinolysin inhibitors may be indicated.

The timely presentation of W. J. Rudowski on complications associated with blood transfusion contains a wealth of information. He reminds us that blood transfusion is a more dangerous procedure than normal appendectomy or cholecystectomy. S.-E. Bergentz, giving his experience with renal artery stenosis, clearly discusses the place of function studies and arteriography for preoperative evaluation. A short review of the peculiar group of diseases called 'fibrous mural dysplasia' is very worth reading. On the basis of his data, the indications for surgical correction are clearly formulated. Although the impact of this kind of surgery on a large population of hypertonics may be small, it is a significant achievement - quite apart from the increased knowledge acquired concerning the pathophysiology of kidney function.

L. Thoren gives an extensive review on magnesium metabolism in order to summarize briefly to the clinician that, at the present state of knowledge, urinary excretion and loading studies are the most informative tests.

M. Allgöwer