

SUMMARY

The density of cells per unit area on the counting chamber increases progressively from the point of entrance of the sample along the length of the chamber.

Irrespective of the length of the flooded area the cell density reaches its mean half-way along the chamber. The longer the flooded area the less is the slope of the distribution curve.

The results of total leucocyte counts made on single-ruled and double-ruled chambers show that the increased length of flooded area on the former gives rise to a lower count.

Measurements on a selection of the old type of double-ruled chambers show that the position of the ruled areas varies considerably from chamber to chamber but that the rulings on the amended B.S.S

double-ruled chambers is accurate to within the British Standards specification.

It is suggested that there is an optimum length of flooded area for a standard width and depth of chamber when loading by the capillary attraction method.

We are indebted to Mr. B. D. Cook and Mr. D. J. Cotchin for performing many of the counts, to other members of the Haematology Department for their help, to Dr. R. G. Orr for much helpful criticism in the preparation of this paper, and to Dr. Katharine Williams, Principal Medical Officer, for her permission to publish the paper.

REFERENCES

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The March 1961 Issue

THE MARCH 1961 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

Mortuary design and hazards

Sclerosing osteogenic sarcomatosis LIONEL WOLMAN

Pathological changes in temporal arteries removed from unselected cadavers R. W. AINSWORTH, G. A. GRESHAM, and G. V. BALMFORTH

The pathology of 111 cases of primary hepatic malignancy collected in the Liverpool region A. H. CRUICKSHANK

The cytology of gastric mucosa W. C. D. RICHARDS and A. I. SPRIGGS

The adhesiveness of native platelets and its prevention J. R. O'BRIEN

A note on platelet adhesiveness in ischaemic heart disease P. J. NESTEL

The application of x-ray diffraction and electron microscopy to the study of human peripheral nerve obtained by biopsy J. B. FINEAN and A. L. WOOLF

A haemagglutination test for anti-Panton-Valentine leucocidin in serum: an interim report on 200 cases A. G. TOWERS

Quantitative determination of haemoglobin A₂ using paper electrophoresis R. N. IBBOTSON and B. A. CROMPTON

The relationship to age and cerebral vascular accidents to fibrin and fibrinolytic activity R. HUME

The occurrence of post- γ protein in urine: a new protein abnormality ELIZABETH A. BUTLER and F. V. FLYNN

Physico-chemical and immunological observations on the abnormal proteins in three patients with cryoglobulin-aemia H. A. ELLIS and D. R. STANWORTH with the technical assistance of P. RATCLIFF

The effect of corticotrophin zinc on plasma 17-hydroxycorticoids as a test of adrenal cortical function J. S. JENKINS

The influence of penicillin on *Lactobacillus leichmannii* serum B₁₂ assay BORYS BOCZAROW

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Technical methods:

Determination of packed cell volume by centrifugation R. F. JONES

Tris buffer for differentiation between haemoglobins C and E and separation of haemoglobins S from F and 'lepore' from A H. LEHMANN and A. SHARIH

A simple spectrophotometric method for the determination of urea in blood and urine T. K. WITH, TOVE DREYER PETERSEN, and BIRGIT PETERSEN

A method for the collection of saliva P. J. COUSINS

A rapid method for the estimation of serum haptoglobin D. S. ROWE

Symposium on anticoagulant therapy

Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,
 BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1, price 17s. 6d.

in Formosa, and of a cancer survey in Johannesburg. Dr. Doll, who played a prominent part in the survey of eclampsia and pre-eclampsia given last year at the International Society of Geographical Pathology meeting in London, is to be congratulated on his editorship of this very useful publication. It will do much to stimulate interest in this valuable approach to the study of disease.

GEORGE J. CUNNINGHAM

CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS. Papers delivered at the Conference convened by The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. Organized under the direction of Professor A. Bradford Hill. (Pp. vii + 177; 40 figures. 20s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

The need for the clinical trial is becoming better appreciated with the increasing number of therapeutic agents available. Although the benefit of some of these substances is clear-cut, there are many in which it is more difficult to assess their worth. In modern times the clinical trial is a scientific method which has replaced the older method of personal observation. The earlier papers delivered at this conference give guidance on the selection of suitable material for these trials and indicate pitfalls which must be avoided. A series of papers deals with trials carried out on such a wide variety of conditions as 'antihistamine drugs in the treatment of the common cold', 'sore throat', 'tuberculosis', and 'malignant disease'. The assessment of the results is very adequately dealt with and the book concludes with two excellent chapters by Sir George Pickering and by the Chairman, Professor A. Bradford Hill. The production of this volume is of a high standard and the publishers are to be congratulated.

GEORGE J. CUNNINGHAM

HISTOPLASMOSIS. Edited by Henry C. Sweany. (Pp. xiv + 538; illustrated. £5 16s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1960.

This book is a comprehensive account of all aspects of histoplasmosis, each chapter being written by one or more contributors with wide experience in that particular field. Such a book could only be American, since all the important information about the disease has been elicited in the endemic areas of that country; many contributors have been responsible for important advances in the knowledge of this subject and may be truly described as authorities.

The original chapter outlines the history of the disease with a dozen photographs of investigators who have contributed to the subject. From then on detailed descriptions of the organism and its growth characteristics, geographical distribution, the epidemiology of the disease, methods of identification, pathogenesis in animals and man, pathology, radiology, clinical types, diagnostic problems, and therapy, follow. Literature references extend to 1958, and there must be little of importance at that time which is omitted from the volume.

The illustrations are numerous and of excellent quality, and the text, with an occasional notable exception, well written and very readable.

The main criticism of the volume is its unnecessary bulk (and price), which has presumably resulted from the unwillingness of the editor to modify the contributions of his distinguished colleagues. Whatever the reason, repetition is considerable, both in the text and in illustrations; and surely the references could have been gathered together at the end instead of after each chapter, so that many appear in full on numerous occasions. All told they occupy over 40 pages and are not even uniformly set out, some being listed alphabetically, others numerically as they occur in the text. Similarly, it would surely be reasonable to decide whether summaries are needed after each chapter or at the end of the book. The book could be two-thirds its present size and not suffer one bit.

Nevertheless, anyone interested in histoplasmosis will find it a mine of information. And even if one is not particularly interested, it is salutary to read an account of a disease which, until recent years, has been largely misdiagnosed or ignored. The story of this disease is a timely reminder, as the editor points out, that the pathological diagnosis of 'chronic granuloma' should be a diagnostic challenge and not, as is so commonly the case, accepted as an answer. Prolonged antibacterial therapy may be expected to increase the prevalence of fungal infection; perusal of this volume will make the reader less likely to overlook this possibility.

B. E. TOMLINSON

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CANCER CONGRESS

The eighth international cancer congress will take place in Moscow from 22 to 28 July 1962, under the auspices of the International Union Against Cancer. The Congress will meet at the Moscow State University, and will consider both experimental and clinical aspects of the problem.

The registration fee is 30 U.S. dollars per member, if sent before 1 April 1962.

Applications to read papers will be considered only on condition that both the application and abstract of the paper (not exceeding 250 words) are submitted not later than 1 November 1961.

All information concerning the Congress, as well as enrolment forms and applications to read papers and show cinematograph films, may be obtained from the General Secretary of the Soviet National Organizing Committee, Professor L. Shabad, or the Assistant General Secretary, Dr. N. Perevodchickova, Academy of Medical Sciences of the U.S.S.R., 14, Solyanka, Moscow, U.S.S.R.

LOCUM BUREAU

The locum bureau is still proving useful both for pathologists wishing to be locums and for pathologists requiring locums. A new system for operating the bureau is now in operation. Anyone interested should get in touch with Dr. Anne Gibson, The South London Hospital, Clapham, S.W.4, Telephone number: TULse Hill 1221.

BACK NUMBERS

The Editor has been sent copies of certain back numbers (not necessarily complete volumes). Anybody who wishes to obtain one or more back issues should kindly write to the Editor at The Group Laboratory, St. Mary Abbots Hospital, Kensington, London, W.8.

CORRECTION

Dr. Meynell writes: 'In the paper by O'Sullivan, Fitzgerald, Malins, and Meynell (*J. clin. Path.*, 13, 527),

under the paragraph entitled "Collection of Specimens", the statement at the end "if this was not possible they were stored at -20°C ." is wrong and should read "were stored at $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$." In this work no specimen had been stored. All were dealt with immediately after collection. We have since compared counts obtained following immediate inoculation; those after storing at $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$. overnight and those after storing at -20°C . overnight. The first two are practically the same. At -20°C . viable counts are quite strikingly reduced. Although -20°C . may be satisfactory for storing bacteria and filtrable viruses it should not be used for viable counts.'

Association of Clinical Pathologists Broadsheets

The following broadsheets (new series) are published by the Association of Clinical Pathologists. They may be obtained from Dr. R. B. H. Tierney, Pathological Laboratory, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, N. Devon, price 1s. each, except nos. 26 and 27. The prices include postage but air mail will be charged extra.

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